

NEWS

in brief

Hussein expresses frustration over peace

King Hussein, frustrated by the stalled Mideast talks and enraged by the Mashaal Affair, said yesterday that his outlook had changed three years after signing a peace treaty with Israel. "It was an encouraging start, full of hope, that our peace treaty will be a step towards a bigger deed... a comprehensive peace," Hussein said. "I can't say the climate now is the same as three years ago." Hussein said at a joint news conference with visiting Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

He expressed frustration over the policies of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. *AP*

Court rejects petition on prisoner releases

The High Court yesterday rejected a petition by right-wing activists Noam Federman and Tiran Pollack for the government to publish the names of Palestinian prisoners being released, before they are freed.

Justices Theodore Orr, Mishal Cheshin and Yasov Tirkal, said they sufficed with the government's reply that the names of those released were made available once the prisoners were freed.

Federman criticized the government for releasing prisoners to self-rule areas where they could stage attacks, rather than deporting them. *Itim*

C'ttee meets at anniversary of Jordan treaty

The third anniversary of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty was marked yesterday at a meeting of the Eilat-Akaba committee which deals with the bilateral relationship in the southern border area. Among the topics discussed were establishment of a joint land-sea rescue system, ecological protection of the Gulf of Eilat, sewage purification, and eradication of mosquitoes and cooperation in sport and culture.

Jordanian committee chairman Fayez Tarawna conveyed King Hussein's good wishes. "From Jordan's perspective, peace with Israel is a long-range strategic goal for the coming generations," he said. *Jay Bushinsky*

Manbar's lawyer cannot quit

Tel Aviv District Court yesterday rejected a request by Amnon Zihroni that he be allowed to resign as the lawyer for Nahum Manbar, who is under indictment for supplying Iran with chemical weapons components. Zihroni said that a document specifying what in the case must be kept secret, issued by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Sunday, severely limits his ability to function as Manbar's counsel. The court disagreed, saying there is nothing in the document which prima facie harms Zihroni's ability to represent his client. *Itim*

Primakov: Russia would be first to recognize Palestinian state

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NABIS

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov told a news conference in Ramallah yesterday that his country would be the first to recognize a Palestinian state.

He also called on Israel to "fulfill all its commitments and the Oslo accords, including the Hebron accords."

Primakov said that Russia "still supports the Palestinian people and its need for justice until

the existence of their independent state."

He pledged to "work on all tracks and if an independent Palestinian state is established, Russia will be the first state to recognize it."

Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat appealed for Russia's help in peace efforts with Israel.

"The peace process has turned a corner and I'm calling upon President [Boris] Yeltsin as a sponsor of the peace process with the US to protect the process and move it forward,"

Arafat said.

Arafat said Palestinian ties with Russia were strong. He thanked Primakov for his support for the PA.

Regarding the uncertainty about next week's planned talks in Washington, Arafat said that the PA was withholding a decision about whether to attend until the Israeli delegation decides.

"We have to wait for the final resolution from the Israeli side to decide if we will go to this meeting or not," Arafat said.



Freed prisoner
Soldiers in a truck let handcuffed Palestinian prisoners pass as they were released yesterday as part of a swap arranged with Jordan in exchange for the Mossad agents accused of involvement in a botched attempt to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal in Amman. In all, as many as 31 Palestinians were expected to be freed yesterday. *(Reuters)*

Gush Etzion plans to expand

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza together with members of the Land of Israel Front Knesset caucus yesterday announced they would establish a new settlement in western Gush Etzion.

Its establishment was approved by the government in 1970, said council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar, adding that a name for the settlement had been decided upon, but it and the location would be kept secret until the government's stand on settlements is clarified.

The announcement followed an emergency session between settlement leaders and MKs and cabinet ministers.

Sources within the council said they are concerned over mounting rumors that in advance of his trip to the US, Foreign Minister David Levy had raised the possibility of freezing settlement construction. The sources said Levy is not willing to travel to the US empty handed.

Meanwhile, settlement leaders say they will hold off work on the new settlement until Wednesday's cabinet meeting. Tayar said that the equipment to start work is ready and waiting.

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) of the Land of Israel Front warned that settlement leaders are no longer interested in words or statements, but only in action. "If the government insists on any type of freeze or acts like the former government, then it will be treated as such," he said.

Kleiner hinted that if Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu agrees to a slowdown or time-out in the settlements, the battle would not remain within the Knesset but would spread to the streets.

Meanwhile, Peace Now declared that the council's decision to establish a new settlement is a blatant violation of the law. "Every time the council does not agree with the government, its sole reaction is to resort to violence and law breaking," said Hagit Ya'ari, the movement's spokeswoman.

Mordechai favors 'pre-emptive strike' against missiles

By ARIEN O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that under certain circumstances, he would favor a "pre-emptive strike" against long-range missiles and systems that threaten Israel.

Addressing an international conference in Tel Aviv on ballistic missile proliferation in the Middle East, Mordechai said: "If it depends on us, and if it will be strategically possible from a political and security aspect... we shall seek to pre-empt and strike at those systems which threaten to harm us."

But he added: "Naturally this depends on an overall view of the situation... but that is my position."

Mordechai reiterated his warning to Syria, Iran and other states that any missile or non-conven-

tional strike at Israel's civilian population would elicit a "painful and heavy" retaliation by the IDF.

"If the Arab-nations use this sort of weapon against us, then they must take into account that we will use all means at our disposal to retaliate," Mordechai said.

The defense minister said that it is incorrect to view the missile threat on Israel today on the scale

of the Iraqi Scud attacks during the 1991 Gulf War.

Iraq fired 39 Scuds on Israel which damaged hundreds of homes, and seriously disrupted commerce, but few Israelis were hurt.

"They can cause greater harm, particularly if they are equipped with non-conventional warheads," he said. "We have the ability to

harm those who harm our vital interests and they need to expect that we'll extract a heavy price [if attacked]."

Speaking at the conference hosted by the Galili Center for Strategy and National Security, Mordechai said that the threat of missiles aimed at Israel is the most significant existential threat on Israel since the War of

Independence.

"They can hit our most vital assets, the civilian population which we are supposed to be defending," he said.

Mordechai earlier expressed skepticism over Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov's repeated declarations that his country is not helping Iran to build

nuclear weapons or develop medium- and long-range surface-to-surface missiles capable of striking Israel.

Mordechai told reporters that he had showed the Russian minister intelligence documents refuting Primakov's denial that Moscow is intimately cooperating with the weapons program in Iran.

"[Primakov] claimed that the nuclear aid was all for research or peaceful civilian purposes in order to generate energy, etc. etc.," Mordechai said after talks with Primakov. "We determined, according to our information, that the opposite is true."

Mordechai repeated Israel's request for Russia to cease its aid to Iran. He said that if Russia stopped now, then Iran would not likely be able to build surface-to-surface missiles capable of reaching Israel.

'Iran sent 50 arms shipments to Hizbullah'

More than 50 shipments of weapons have been delivered by air from Iran to Hizbullah via Damascus in the past few months, it was reported last night.

Channel 2 quoted diplomatic sources as saying that Syria was

aware of the shipments and the contents which were being flown into Damascus airport and from there transported overland to Hizbullah in Lebanon.

According to another report, some of the recent supplies to Hizbullah have included US-

made TOW anti-tank missiles and improved, Sagger anti-tank missiles.

Meanwhile, a Hizbullah source was quoted on Lebanese radio stations yesterday as saying that it is part of the organization's policy to try to kidnap Israeli soldiers.

The unnamed official was apparently responding to reports here that Hizbullah last Friday night, in an operation that was repulsed, tried to snatch IDF soldiers in the Rehan region in the north-eastern sector of the security zone. *(David Rudge)*

Conversion and religious councils bills preoccupy Knesset

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset throbbed with activity yesterday in last-minute attempts to find a solution to the conversion bill and religious council bill dilemma. The group of Reform leaders who came in from the US to lobby against the bills rushed between meetings with different factions and groups from both the coalition and opposition.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, who headed the committee seeking a compromise, told reporters there would be no choice but to bring the religious council bill up for first reading because of the decision by the Reform movement to refuse to postpone its High Court petition.

In a closed meeting with the Reform rabbis, Neeman reportedly expressed his sorrow at their decision so strongly that he compared it to the destruction of the Third Temple.

Rabbi Amiel Hirsh said in response that the decision was taken with "heavy heart" after the non-Orthodox had found "there

was no partner on the other side." He placed the blame on the Chief Rabbinate which refuses to accept the Neeman Committee proposals.

He said there was no reason to assume that after another delay, the Chief Rabbinate would agree to the proposals.

The religious councils bill is believed to have a chance of passing since Yisrael Ba'alya, with the exception of Roman Bronfman, and the Third Way have said they will not oppose it.

The decision by the Reform leaders not to further suspend the judicial proceedings did not go down well in the Knesset. Yisrael Ba'alya leader and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said: "They did not play ball."

Alex Lubotzky (Third Way), who has been actively seeking a solution used words like "frustrated" and "disappointed."

Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) wrote to the prime minister urging him to cancel his planned visit to the Reform convention in the US.

"It's inconceivable that the Israeli prime minister will be the guest of a convention which threatens to harm Israel politically, economically, and socially unless [Israel] accepts its dictates concerning the legislation democratically made in the Knesset," he wrote. He said since Netanyahu was not invited to the convention as a private individual but as a representative of the country, he should not go.

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak told his faction that the Neeman proposals are deserving of support, but added that if no compromise could be found and the bills went ahead, Labor will vote against them. He also called on the Reform to allow more time to find a compromise. "One shouldn't be afraid of a few more days," he said.

Moshe Shahal, who heads Labor's committee on the issue, said the party completely opposes the religious councils bill, which he said is unconstitutional and takes away the rights of a part of the population.

Yona Yahav (Labor) said he fears

the Reform movement has gotten carried away and that its rejection of a postponement "was a wrong step." He continued to promote his bill calling for the abolition of religious councils.

Yossi Beilin (Labor), however, said the Reform leaders were right "because nobody would have changed his mind during the extra time."

At a meeting of coalition MKs, Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom, who coordinates between the government and Knesset, said the religious councils bill could not

come up for first reading this week because today and tomorrow are dedicated to the budget debate. House Committee Chairman Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) warned him that the MKs from the religious parties would not support the budget if the bill was not presented.

Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), chairman of the Law Committee, said it will meet next week to discuss conversion bill. "We were prepared to wait. We invested much goodwill and patience in establishing the Neeman Committee," he said.

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AG: Split with US Jews mostly psychological

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

The split between Israeli leaders and US Jews over the conversion bill stems from "psychological walls of suspicion," concluded Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein in a speech last night.

"The recurring disputes over who is a Jew - or who is a rabbi - derives from lack of knowledge, embarrassment, and suspicion," Rubinstein said. "When such a lack of mutual knowledge relates to wide populations, this is understandable. It is less understandable when this applies to leadership."

In his speech to the International Conference on Antisemitism, Rubinstein indirectly expressed

support for the efforts of the Neeman Committee.

Rubinstein was the point man on the "Who is a Jew" controversy of 1988, when he served as cabinet secretary in the Shamir government. He recalled that in an effort to resolve whether Reform and Conservative conversions abroad would be recognized by the Israeli government, his efforts led to a proposal "which was very close" that of the current Neeman Committee: the formation of conversion committees made up of rabbis from all streams of Judaism, overseen by an Orthodox religious court recognized by the Israeli rabbinate.

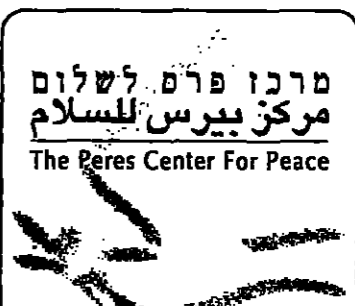
The proposal was ultimately

unsuccessful "because the time was not ripe," said Rubinstein, and went on to speculate that "perhaps we are approaching ripeness now."

The conference was cosponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, the World Jewish Congress, Tel Aviv University's Project for the Study of Antisemitism, and the government's Antisemitism Monitoring Forum.

Abraham Foxman, ADL's international director, said one of the conference's purposes is for Jews worldwide "to unite and declare a zero tolerance level for antisemitism, whether it comes from the prime minister of Malaysia, a mosque in Teheran, a site on the Internet, or a professor in San Francisco."

Thank you for coming and SHALOM



- To everyone who came to participate in the inaugural event of the Peres Center for Peace, thank you.
 - The staff of the Center would also like to take this opportunity to offer our apology to those that attended but were unable to find a seat due to the overwhelming response.
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שכנא עז לאוהלי

The Jerusalem Post
Gush Etzion plans to expand

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH
Members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza together with members of the Land of Israel settlement caucus yesterday announced they would establish a settlement in western Gush Etzion.
The establishment was approved by the government in 1970, and the council spokeswoman Yehuda Yehonatan, adding that a name for the settlement had been decided upon and the location would be kept secret until the government had approved the plan. The announcement followed an emergency session between settlement leaders and MKs and cabinet ministers.
Sources within the council said they are concerned over mounting pressure that in advance of his visit to the U.S. Foreign Minister Deri had raised the possibility of ending settlement construction. Sources said Levy is not willing to travel to the U.S. camp.
Meanwhile, settlement leaders they will hold off work on the settlement until Wednesday's cabinet meeting. Yehonatan said the agreement to start work is still being negotiated.
MK Michael Kleiner (Gush Etzion) said that the council of settlement leaders are not interested in words or promises, but only in action. "If the government insists on any type of settlement, then it will be treated as such," he said.
Kleiner hinted that if Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu goes to a slow-down in settlement construction, the council will spread to the streets.
Meanwhile, Yehonatan said that the council is planning to establish a new settlement in the Gush Etzion area. She said the council is in contact with the government and law enforcement. Yehonatan said that the council is planning to establish a new settlement in the Gush Etzion area.



Rabbi Richard Hirsch, executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, spreads his arms while speaking yesterday about the split between the liberal and Orthodox streams of Judaism.

Deri: Let's quit agency

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Shas leader Aryeh Deri yesterday called on the religious coalition partners to pull out of the Jewish Agency and form their own body.
"Leave the Jewish Agency... in the hands of the Reform Jews alone, let them stew in their own juice, and [we'll] establish a new Jewish agency of Zionists, religious, and national bodies," Deri said on Israel Radio.
Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg reacted harshly, saying, "If Aryeh Deri wants, by establishing an 'alternative Jewish Agency,' to strengthen the ties between the Jewish people, I welcome his initiative, but I don't see how he can succeed in this without the cooperation of 70 percent of the Jewish people, while alienating and ignoring them."
"The position of the Jewish Agency and its leader has been known for some time to all Israel's governments, and to its public figures, and it is unequivocally that the Jewish Agency opposes all legislation intended to divide the Jewish people."
Reacting to the apparent break-

down in the conversion bill compromise, Burg said the chief rabbis' and the haredi parties' refusal to reach a compromise with leaders of the Reform and Conservative movements borders on closed-mindedness and wickedness.
"I fear that if the conversion bill is passed, it will be the opening shot in a civil war within the Jewish people," Burg said.
He praised Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's efforts to reach a compromise, and said the committee's recommendations had created a historic momentum which could be used to achieve unity among all streams in Judaism, and historic reconciliation for the first time in 100 years.
"It's too bad that it is the willingness of the Reform and Conservative to cooperate with the Neeman Committee has run into a brick wall on the part of the chief rabbis. The leaders of the haredi public are taking full responsibility for a terrible split in the Jewish people."
"An Israel which alienates the majority of the Jewish people will no longer be a source of identity for world Jewry. I fear we will

return to the days of Babylon without Zion.
"Israeli society is struggling today over its Jewish identity. The public wants freedom of choice," Burg said.

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Are the Reform and Conservative in cahoots with the opposition?

Forget ideology or a religious philosophy. The real reason behind the Conservative and Reform movement's decision yesterday to force the conversion issue now, according to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, is political.
"The rejection of the compromise by the Reform Jews raises the suspicion that political factors were involved in their decision, which are interested in deepening the division within the Jewish people and in the State of Israel as a political tool against the government, instead of attempting to strengthen the unity in Israel," a statement from the prime minister said.
Shas leader Aryeh Deri was more blunt. "They came to the conclusion, and unfortunately politicians from the Left stood behind them, that the clear goal was to bring down the government," he said on Israel Radio. "There is no doubt that the decision is political."
Despite Deri's certainty, and Netanyahu's interpretation, Hebrew University political scientist Avraham Diskin has his doubts.
"When the recommendations of the Neeman Committee were leaked out, it was the Reform and Conservative who accepted them, and the Orthodox who rejected them," he said.
The recommendations included a proposal to create a central conversion institute under the auspices of the Jewish Agency and run jointly by the three streams of Judaism. The converts would go there for classes, but the actual conversion ceremony would be done by Orthodox representatives.
The committee also addressed the issue of Reform and Conservative marriages and developed a formula whereby those movements' rabbis could perform marriages here with supervision from the Chief Rabbinate.

Had the ultimate goal been to bring down the government, Diskin said, the Reform and Conservative movements would not have expressed a willingness to accept even these original proposals.
Steven Cohen, a sociologist who has written extensively on American Jewry and teaches at Hebrew University's Melton Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora, also does not believe the motivation behind the liberal movements' decision to force the issue now is a political one.
"The major motivation is substantive, and directly related to the issue at hand," he said.
Cohen also believes that [Shimon] Peres and [Yitzhak] Rabin could have elicited more understanding from the Conservative and Reform leadership, especially from the Reform which is more dovish on peace policies.
According to Cohen, "a government that seemed to be on the road to peace and needed Orthodox support to conclude a peace agreement with a major Arab partner probably could get the non-Orthodox movements to delay the battle. But this government does not hold out any such promise."
Cohen said that if Labor Party head Ehud Barak votes for the conversion bill to curry favor with the religious parties, the Reform and Conservative leadership abroad "would hold it against him. He would be extremely suspect as a leader of Labor. It would affect contributions. There are certain figures who are major supporters, who would be clearly reluctant to give."
Third Way MK Alex Lubotsky, who has been a major force behind attempts to reach a compromise, also said that he does not think that trying to bring down the government was the

motive behind yesterday's decision.
"A number of people both in Labor and Meretz told me that they think the Reform and Conservative movements made a mistake," Lubotsky said, "and even called the decision a catastrophe."
From the standpoint of the Left, it is not good to bring the government down over religious legislation, Lubotsky said, "because this will just mobilize the religious against Labor. Barak himself has come out in favor of a compromise."
Israel's Reform Movement also realizes the dual-edged nature of a close political affiliation with the left-wing. Recently a proposal to push the candidacy of a prominent Reform representative from Tel Aviv onto the next Meretz Knesset list was rejected by Israel's Reform Movement.
According to a source involved in this move, the argument against having a high profile Reform representative run with Meretz was that it could alienate supporters abroad who are either in the political center or lean to the Right, and that it could hurt the movement's image in Israel to identify too closely with a political party.
MK Eliezer Zandberg of Tsomet, whose party is in the coalition but adamantly opposes religious legislation, said the decision not to give the Neeman Committee more time was not an attempt to bring down the government, but rather a "mistaken" reading that they could gain more by taking a hard-line stance.
"This matter has gone on for 50 years," Zandberg said, "another four months would not be the end of the world. By appearing intransigent on this, they are losing public opinion points."

Yosef: Courts can't rule on religious topics

Former Sephardi chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef yesterday called on High Court justices to disqualify themselves from ruling on the issue of religious councils.
Referring to a petition filed by the Reform and Conservative movements for a ruling that would entitle their members to sit on religious councils, Yosef said: "How is it possible for a person who is a self-declared non-believer to decide on a religious issue?"
The chief rabbis meanwhile renewed criticism of the Reform and Conservative movements whose leaders decided yesterday to reject an appeal to postpone their petitions on the issues of the councils and conversions. Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau said he would agree to speak with Reform leaders, if they would stop recognizing persons born of non-Jewish women as Jews, and expel rabbis who perform mixed marriages.
"Lau also brought up a survey taken at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati some years back in which he said a majority of rabbinical students could not say that they believed there is a God."
Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron said he is prepared to recognize members of both streams as "brothers and Jews. But to recognize them as rabbis, that would put the entire institution of the rabbinate to shame." Bakshi-Doron also derided the Reform and Conservative streams as "conditional Zionists." (Tim)

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI
Efforts to reach a compromise in the conversion bill controversy attracted considerable media attention yesterday.
Writing in *Ma'ariv* Uri Avnery criticized the non-Orthodox factions for going to "war against the Orthodox movement," rather than focussing on the need to separate religion and state.
In *Ha'aretz* Yair Sheleg stated that the Orthodox parties' rejection of the Neeman compromise meant "missing out on a great opportunity from the Orthodox standpoint... to open a historical process which can draw near the Reform movement to halacha, instead of chasing it away."
Questionable visits
Foreign Minister David Levy's refusal to meet with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Yasser Arafat's deputy, Mahmoud Abbas in Washington, "is probably Levy's way of hinting his desperation and dismay with [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu," wrote *Ma'ariv*'s Yosef Lapid.
He added that Netanyahu's planned visit to the US may also be canceled to avoid confrontations with Jews over the conversion bill predicament.
Elyakim Haetzni claimed in *Yediot* Aharonot that Levy's con-

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in brief

Underworld murder suspect rearrested

Ze'ev Rosenstein, 43, from Hod Hasharon, who is suspected of plotting a mob-style murder, was detained in custody for a second time yesterday, after being released to house arrest on Sunday. This followed the Tel Aviv District Court's decision to accept the appeal by police against Rosenstein's release. The court said there appeared to be sufficient evidence to press charges against Rosenstein. *Itm*

Slovenian defense minister to visit

The visiting Slovenian defense minister will be welcomed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai with full military honors at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv today. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Tel Aviv-Jerusalem train service suspended

Following a derailment near Bar Giora yesterday, train service between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem has been suspended until the end of the week. There were no injuries in yesterday's incident. Buses took the passengers to Jerusalem. The line is to be thoroughly checked by railway personnel. The committee investigating another derailment on the same line last week has not yet presented its findings. According to Israel Railways director-general Amos Uzani, the recent derailments are probably the result of the many years of neglect suffered by this line. Plans for improving the line to Jerusalem have not been implemented because of a lack of funds, he said. *Sybil Ehrlich*

TWN angry over alleged child sexual assault

Members of the Israel Women's Network demanded yesterday that Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer suspend or expel a first-grade pupil accused of molesting a female classmate. The incident, in which a first-grade girl was allegedly assaulted in the bathroom by the pupil and another boy, occurred in a community in the south, which hasn't been identified. The second boy was apparently disciplined. "It is unacceptable for only one of the girl's attackers to have been removed from the school, while the other boy continues to study in the same class as the victim," TWN head Prof. Alice Shalvi said. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Checks of radon levels in schools demanded

The levels of radon at educational institutions throughout the country should be checked, Union of Local Authorities in Israel education committee chairman Shmuel Abuav demanded yesterday. Abuav's demand follows the death from cancer this summer of a Jerusalem teacher who taught for 17 years at a school where radon levels were found to be 700 times the permissible level. "Many classrooms throughout the country are located in basements or ground floors [where radon is concentrated]. Thousands of teachers and pupils are exposed to this gas, and the danger to their health is liable to very real," Abuav said. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Enrollment climbs at colleges and universities

Some 142,000 students are registered at the nation's universities and colleges this year, an increase of about 5% over last year, the Council for Higher Education said yesterday. About 107,000 are enrolled at universities, while 35,000 will study at other institutions. Some 12,000 will take courses offered by the Open University. Prof. Nehemia Levzion, chairman of the council's planning and finance committee, said the number of college students in Israel has almost doubled in the past decade from 72,000 to 142,000. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Ashkelon hosts games for the elderly

Some 5,000 "golden agers" (over 60) are expected to take part today in the first-ever Popular Sports Day for the Elderly at Ashkelon National Park. *Judy Stiegel*

Doctors to strike at public hospitals

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 24-hour warning strike by physicians in all public hospitals - except Laniado in Netanya - will put the institutions on an emergency schedule at 7 a.m. today. The Israel Medical Association called the strike to protest against the Treasury's refusal to implement an agreement adding 1,200 extra hospital beds in pediatric, internal medicine and surgical wards and 360 more doctors'

slots during the next few years.

In addition, all operating theaters are due to be closed on Thursday, except for emergency surgery, if the government doesn't keep its commitments by then.

The IMA is thus resuming sanctions carried out during a three-week period before Rosh Hashana and suspended to give time for negotiations during the holidays.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said it was incumbent on the Treasury to carry out

the agreement it had signed, but he nevertheless opposed the strike.

"It's wrong to make this struggle on the backs of patients, who are innocent hostages in this dispute," Matza said.

During today's strike, all but emergency operations will be cancelled in public hospitals; outpatient clinics and diagnostic institutes will shut down; and only a minimum of physicians will be on the wards. Laniado Hospital, which has a no-strike

clause in its employees' contract, never participates in strikes.

Aside from the one-day strike, the IMA has instituted "safe and proper medical practices," in which doctors would not discharge patients before they are fully recovered.

Physicians charge that this policy, which is not ordinarily carried out in public hospitals due to budgetary constraints, will inevitably cause overcrowding and prevent new admissions.



Martin Luther King?

Zo Artzenu supporters demonstrate yesterday outside the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, which heard sentencing arguments in the sedition case against the group's leaders Moshe Feiglin and Shmuel Sackett. The court postponed sentencing to November 11. *(Text: Eilat Wohlgelerner; Photo: Bryan McBurney)*

Edelstein: We're heading right way

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein yesterday presented an upbeat picture of efforts being made by his ministry, saying that while a good deal of work remains to be done, "we are headed in the right direction."

He told the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee that the drop in immigration from the former Soviet Union, which some had predicted would be as high as 20 percent-25% this year, is "in the process of easing up" and would be only about 11% for the period from January to September.

He said he expects some 60,000 new immigrants next year, and that the number of immigrants may be affected by reports that the US is considering doing away with the refugee status granted to Jews from the former Soviet Union.

A ministry spokesman said that while such a decision has not yet been made, there is some pressure in US government circles in that direction. The US let in about 35,000 Jews with this status last year, the spokesman said.

Immigration through the first nine months of the year was 46,950; 37,300 from the former Soviet Union. A total of about 60,000 immigrants are expected by the end of the year.

Last year 41,700 immigrants came from the FSU of a total of 51,860. During the same period in 1995, there were 45,800 from the FSU, and 55,600 total.

Edelstein rejected claims that the immigrants coming are "old and uneducated," saying that the majority are young people.

Unemployment among new immigrants is 11%-12%, "as bad overall as it is in the worst pockets of Israel," Edelstein said. He said some 50 retraining courses in high-tech fields have been opened throughout the country, training some 600 immigrants. He also pointed to the high success rate of a program designed to create immigrant entrepreneurs. Some 10,000 businesses have been started by immigrants, he said, creating some 30,000 jobs. Of the entrepreneurs, 73% are still in business, and half of the others have opted to try again after their initial business failed.

Some 4,300 housing solutions were found for new immigrants in the past year, he said, adding that "as long as one grandmother who came here in 1990 can look me in the eye and ask me: 'When will I finally have my own place to live,' we still haven't done enough."

Beduin ask for PM's support against Eitan

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Leaders of the Beduin community yesterday called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to come to their support after what they described as an unprecedented and unfair attack by Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan.

"We have given our best to the state and the state has given us nothing," said Hassan Heib, a lieutenant-colonel in the IDF. "Eitan owes his advancement in the army to the Beduin, but when he comes to the Negev, he makes dangerous statements."

In a letter published last week, Eitan - a former chief of staff - warned against the Beduin taking control of state lands in the Negev and questioned their future loyalty in the IDF.

MK Taleb a-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) who held a press conference yesterday together with heads of Beduin local councils in the Negev and Galilee, announced that they plan to meet with the various factions in the Knesset to demand equal rights with Jewish local councils.

"If our demands are not met we will begin demonstrating from Sunday outside the Prime Minister's Office," he said.

Infighting mars jubilee planning

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Unless there is a Hanukka miracle, Israel's fiftieth anniversary celebrations will not kick off as planned on the first night of the festival of lights.

The celebrations were due to start with a special festive candle-lighting ceremony by President Ezer Weizman at Beit Hanassi in Jerusalem to be followed by similar ceremonies in other parts of the world. But continued infighting between the various government and public bodies set up to plan the festivities has left all the proposals in the air, only half a year before Israel turns half a century.

The Knesset's State Control Committee, together with State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, convened yesterday to hear the sides and decide whether there is room for an official investigation. "This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the unity and achievements of the nation and instead, we have a sad situation of wasted time, energy and money," said committee chairman Yossi Katz (Labor).

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav (Likud), who has ministerial responsibility for the events, said he had planned to introduce various themes in the anniversary events, but found that he was constantly at loggerheads with the two persons in charge of the non-profit organization dealing with the plans - former OC Northern Command Yossi Peled and Haim Shlitsky, who organized the 1994

peace-signing ceremony with Jordan in the Arava.

Katsav eventually resigned from the organizational position of heading the festival bodies and the position will be taken up by former finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i.

Peled and Shlitsky, who said they resigned a day before Katsav did, drew a gloomy picture of a body unable to function because it had not received the budget it had been promised.

"We were told last January that we would have a NIS 250 million budget," Peled said. "The budget was cut to NIS 120m. Only in June did we see the first sum - NIS 50m, - and that was allocated towards paying rent and salaries with only NIS 5m. earmarked for

the events. "Instead of being a body that planned and executed, we found ourselves wasting our time at economics committees begging for a budget to get started."

Speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister's Office, Moshe Mizrahi, who deals with special events, said that "no lessons had been learned from the 40th or 30th anniversaries... This is a different nation today and the festivities have to be adapted to the times. The non-profit organization was tied down by bureaucratic problems."

On a more optimistic note, Katsav said he hoped that "in two to three weeks" the plans would get moving and that "we will see lots of happy events next year, despite the short time left."

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Prof. Joseph Schenker
Chairman of the Examination Board
Pursuant to Israel State Regulations 1988

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Hang open visit to US in Hawaii

Argentina voters' party

Peru's...

מכאן תוכלו



American werewolves in Washington
Vice President Al Gore and wife Tipper pose in their Halloween costumes last night at their residence in Washington where the couple hosted a Halloween party. (AP)

The great wall of steel

While Beijing contends that unrest in the northwestern regions has stabilized, it calls on China's Moslems to fight separatism

By JANE MACARTNEY

KASHGAR, China - In China's westernmost city of Kashgar, hundreds of mourners filed into the Aikah mosque to bid farewell to Abdul Mili, remembered for his part in an anti-Chinese rebellion in the 1940s.

Mili, 65, had died during the night and was buried within 24 hours in accordance with Moslem law. He was guaranteed a solemn send-off in China's second largest mosque by his position as a government official and as a veteran of the 1946 Three Districts Revolution against the ruling Nationalists that was co-opted by the Communists, who were then in opposition.

Recent uprisings in the western Xinjiang region against rule from Beijing have been met with less warmth by China's Communist rulers. Ringleaders and participants have been swiftly executed or jailed.

"The situation is now very stable," said Liu Yushen, head of the Foreign Affairs office of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region.

"Relations between the Han and the minorities are very harmonious; there are no major problems in living and working in peace," he said.

Ethnic Han Chinese account for about 38 percent of the 16 million people in Xinjiang. The rest are Turkic-speaking Uighurs and other mainly Moslem minorities.

Not all are happy with Chinese rule, officials say.

"But these are a very small minority," said one official in the town of Khotan.

Khotan was rocked by bloody riots two years ago when some 800 people protested against the removal of a charismatic *mullah* whose speeches were drawing huge crowds.

The town of Kashgar has also seen anti-Chinese unrest in the past but for the moment seems relaxed.

The great Sunday bazaar in Kashgar sees thousands of Uighurs gather to market their produce and to sell and buy livestock. One Uighur cloth merchant sitting cross-legged among his colorful wares looked amazed when asked whether he disliked his Han Chinese rulers.

A young Uighur hammering molten gold into earrings over an ancient anvil shrugged and smiled at a similar question. "My business is good, I am happy," said another artisan selling musical instruments in the old city.

Any police or military presence is extremely discreet in Kashgar and Khotan or in any of the smaller trading towns along the southern Silk Road that runs between Xinjiang's Taklamakan desert and the Kunlun mountains.

There is little sign that Beijing is using the army as a force to intimidate its unruly Moslem minorities. The only overt indications of

trouble are tattered propaganda banners strung across roads in small market towns.

"Fight against violent crime and oppose splittism to protect the motherland," reads one banner written in both Chinese characters and Uighur Arabic above the main road in the trading town of Yarkand.

Xinjiang's Han Chinese Communist Party leaders have called on the region's people to erect a "great wall of steel" to fight separatists and to crack down on those who use religion to foment unrest.

Last February, anti-Chinese riots in the town of Yining on the border with Kazakhstan left nine dead and 198 injured. In May, eight people were executed for the planting of home-made bombs on buses in the regional capital Urumqi. The explosions were timed to coincide with the funeral of the late leader Deng Xiaoping.

Officials say the problem is not one of ethnic tension but of political misunderstanding among the uneducated, who are easily manipulated by Uighur activists operating from abroad. "They have a political aim to subvert China, and they use religious slogans and the ethnic issue to attain their goals," said Liu.

China frequently blames foreign forces for stirring up unrest within its borders - although Beijing stops short of identifying any single country.

Officials in Xinjiang cited neighboring Pakistan as well as Saudi Arabia, where the fundamentalist Wahabi school would be a likely group eager to support what they might see as fellow Sunni Moslems beleaguered by secular Chinese rule.

"The Moslems in China are seen as the last Moslems under Communism, and they are increasingly receiving world Moslem attention," said Dru Gladney, senior research fellow at the East-West Center and professor at the Asian Studies Program at the University of Hawaii.

Gladney, an expert on China's Moslem minorities, said there was little likelihood the Uighur militants could mount a real threat to secede from China, although they may be able to influence Beijing's international image and destabilize local areas.

Religious leaders in Xinjiang bristle at the suggestion that Islam could be involved in the anti-China movement.

"Those who believe in Islam would never take actions that would split the country, killing

people and stealing," said Imam Tsadik Kara Haji, 60, head of the Aikah mosque and deputy director of the state-sponsored Kashgar Islamic Association.

"Those involved in splittist activities do not understand Islam," he said, citing the attempted assassination in May 1996 of his colleague Aronghanaji, top leader of Xinjiang's Moslems, as the 73-year-old imam strolled to prayers in Aikah mosque.

Aronghanaji's assailant had been executed, the imam said, pointing a finger at his forehead to mimic the firing squad.

Asked if he feared a similar attack by extremists who may regard him as a collaborator, the white-turbaned imam shrugged. "We believe in destiny. Who knows? But we are not afraid." But he may have reason to fear.

Behind the air of calm, behind the overt bonhomie between Uighurs and the Han Chinese who cannot even speak their language, there flows a frostier undercurrent.

"I can speak Chinese but I don't like to, no one here does," said an elderly Uighur as he sat cross-legged sipping tea in Kashgar. "The Han don't like us and we know it. And we don't like them." Some Uighurs complain that the Chinese broadcast their morning and evening news bulletin through blaring loudspeakers to coincide with the Moslem call to prayer.

Others describe a feeling of oppression. One wealthy merchant who has clearly benefited from China's policy of reform illustrated his discontent by placing an ashtray in the center of the table and marking a circle around it with his finger.

"This is the Uighurs, surrounded by the police," said the businessman. "The Han Chinese should get out of Xinjiang." He even dared to mention the unmentionable - the desire among Uighur militants to set up an independent "East Turkestan" in Xinjiang.

"But if you call Xinjiang 'Turkestan,' then the Chinese will arrest you," he said.

Uighurs voice anger that jobs and opportunities are going to the Han Chinese pouring into the region from interior China. The fact that few Han Chinese, even those born in Xinjiang, bother to learn to speak Uighur is another irritant.

"To resolve the ethnic problem, we must do two things," said a local Han Chinese official. "We must boost economic development, and we must have mutual respect." (Reuters)

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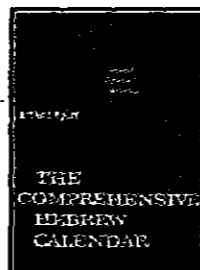
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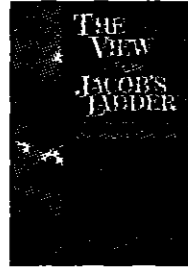
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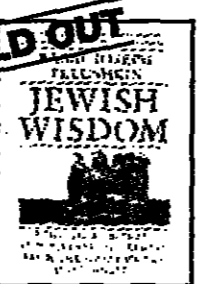
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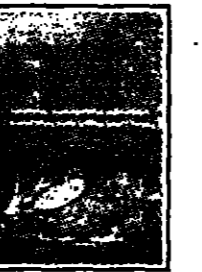
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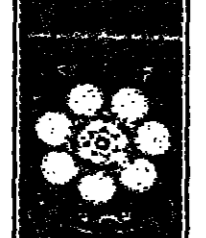
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Voyeurism on display

By KARIN TAYLOR

VIENNA - The death of Britain's Princess Diana has given the work of a group of young Austrian artists a sudden and almost uncanny relevance.

In an exhibition called "Paparazzi," the artists reveal the psychological dynamics that come into play when the photographic trophies of celebrity hunters hit the press, catering to readers' craving for authentic voyeurism.

Paparazzi photographers on motorcycles raced after a Mercedes-Benz limousine carrying Diana as it sped toward a tunnel in Paris on August 31. Moments later, the car crashed, killing the princess, her companion Dodi Fayed, and driver Henri Paul.

The artists, known by their collective name of G.R.A.M., worked on the Paparazzi project for a year before its opening this month in Vienna coincided with media discussions in the aftermath of the high-speed car crash in Paris.

"We were shocked when our work was overtaken by reality," said Martin Behr, speaking for the artists' collective.

The four members of G.R.A.M. spent half a year in Los Angeles photographing neighbors and passers-by. These snapshots of everyday life were visually attuned to resemble paparazzi photography.

Blurred, coarse-grained and lacking composition, the pictures have the power to turn neighborhood rituals into incriminating material.

"We enable an unedited view of the border zones of life, such as sexuality. Our images intensify cliches so that the observer immediately associates mysterious goings-on with the pictures," Behr said.

G.R.A.M. invites the visitor to try out the role of a paparazzi. Binoculars afford a closer look at photographic scenes hung at a dis-

tance. Yet the images remain slightly out of focus, revealing a jeans-clad body thrown over the front seat of a car, a moment of intimacy between two women, or a stolen kiss.

In another sequence, five blurred shots snapped from a hidden vantage point trigger a suggestive chain of associations.

A young woman in a scanty summer dress leans over the bonnet of a parked car, exposing her thighs. Stepping back, she appears to wait for a signal from inside. The driver's seat is shadowed in contrast to the bright

sunlight of the street. Taking a closer look at the photo series, the visitor notes that the car may in fact be empty. But a few simple signals have sufficed to set off an emotionally charged film in the mind - and to "expose" the woman.

Given that in reality she was the object of an artist's and not a paparazzi's lens, the potential prostitute was probably just a woman checking the window of her own automobile.

"Our intention is to make the observer a voyeur," explained Behr.

He said G.R.A.M. had considered postponing the exhibition after news of Diana's death, but then decided to go ahead.

"We don't consider paparazzi bad as such," French investigators say it appears that excessive speed and alcohol were to blame for the crash of Diana's limo rather than pursuing paparazzi.

In the words of G.R.A.M., modern people are "reality-junkies" addicted to increasing doses of authentic voyeurism in an age where images can be technically faked with ease.

Paparazzi are simply players in a game that media experts describe as "the end of privacy," according to Behr. (Reuters)



Media Update

מכאן התחיל

The Islamization of Dagestan

The Sudanese way

By MATTHEW BIGG

By VANORA BENNETT

MAKHACHKALA, Russia — Prayer beads click on the street again and newly built mosques rise into the sky. Russia's Moslem south is in the throes of a religious revival, and would-be leaders are lining up to bring the faithful back to God.

Where just a few years ago red flags and the bearded image of Lenin sprouted from every public building here, now the flags are Islamic green and the iconic bearded face on the banners is that of the region's holy warrior-hero, the 19th-century Imam Shamil.

The public renaissance of their faith and traditions, after decades of Soviet repression, is a source of innocent joy to most people in the Russian republic of Dagestan, near the Caspian Sea.

"When I was a child, everything about religion had to be kept quiet," said Timur Dzhaferov, 26, a journalist. "You'd say things like, 'Have you washed yet today?' to your sister, when you were really talking about praying. That wasn't long ago. But, thank God, it's all over." But the new Islamic fervor is also starting to become a source of worry, playing on Russia's fears that militant fundamentalism could seep in through its southern border and destabilize an already volatile frontier region.

Some Dagestanis fear that their leaders are peddling religion like a once-banned drug to distract public attention from the republic's high crime rate and faltering economy. Others worry about increasing rivalries between the men who want to control the religious reawakening. Still others fret about the harsh influence of a new fundamentalist movement imported from Saudi Arabia.

Moslem separatists in war-ravaged Chechnya, on Dagestan's border, are adding to the concerns of moderates with their overtures to the faithful of Dagestan to join up in a "single spiritual space," a suggestion sure to anger the region's powerful overlords, Moscow.

"What's going on now is the overidealization of Islam," said Garun Kurbanov, head of the cultural faculty at Makhachkala University. "We seem to be going straight from one mono-ideology — worship of Lenin — to another." It's only politically correct to take Islam into account," he said. "Ten years ago, most people in Soviet Dagestan would have called themselves atheists, at least in public, although many quietly believed in private. Now 90 percent of people say they're Moslems, although it's my opinion that only half of them are really convinced believers and the rest are waverers on the edge of faith or just followers of fashion."

For many Dagestanis, taking refuge in religion is a relief from the chaos in other parts of their post-Soviet lives.

In Makhachkala, unemployed youths loiter, smoking, on street corners outside crumbling apartment blocks. Nervous hotel staff operate from behind iron grilles, guarded by gunmen. Middlemen charge would-be students bribes of thousands of dollars apiece to sign up at the university.

Crime rates are higher than in other parts of Russia. After a 21-

month war between the Russian army and the Chechen separatists, the whole region is awash with guns. Soviet-era factories here have shut down, and the local economy now runs at least in part on illegal trade in caviar, oil and guns, and on dubious import-export business among Russia, Turkey and the Middle East. Political assassinations are regular events.

Public debate as reported in the

Dagestan's respected official cleric, is opposed by flamboyant Nadyrshah Khachilayev, one of a family of tall, bearded brothers who have risen to prominence in post-Soviet times. Another brother, Magomed, is the fisheries minister. Nadyrshah, who says proudly that he met Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and boxer Mike Tyson during a recent visit to Chicago, is the founder of the

might — as it did last century — join forces with separatist Chechnya and fight together to escape Russian rule.

Movladi Udugov, Chechnya's deputy prime minister and information minister, added to those fears by bringing together 35 Dagestani and Chechen Islamic groups in Chechnya in August. They established an Islamic Nation movement whose aim, Udugov said, was to reunite Chechnya and Dagestan.

But few people in politically quiet Dagestan are keen to repeat the Chechen experience. Chechnya lost 80,000 people under attack by Russian troops from 1994 to 1996, and the rebel republic's postwar experiments with Shari's law — including public floggings and televised executions — have caused horror in Russia.

Dagestan's Communist-led government is eager to avoid offending Russia and drawing retribution.

The most pressing religion-related worry of all, for phlegmatic city types in Makhachkala, is the quiet rise of the fundamentalist Wahhabi movement from Saudi Arabia. Unlike the folksy Islam of southern Russia — a type of Sufi mysticism — this movement is purist, radical and, say its opponents, dangerous.

Conflict between Wahhabis and traditional Sufi believers hit the headlines in Dagestan in May, when 1,000 supporters of the rival sides clashed in the central village of Karamakhi. Three people were killed.

The village, it turns out, was well supplied with weapons, although no one could say from where.

Wahhabi violence has also been reported in Chechnya. Khasanbek Yakhyayev, a *mullah* in the Chechen capital, Grozny, was gunned down outside his home in June. His killer, later slain by Yakhyayev's relatives, was a Wahhabi believer angered by the *mullah's* recent denunciations of Wahhabism.

Over the years, the Moslems of southern Russia formed small Sufi worship groups, based on families and clans; each followed a charismatic leader. This resistance-cell structure helped them survive Czarist and Soviet repression. When their leaders died, worshippers made mini-pilgrimages to graves, leaving behind reverent marks of respect — handkerchiefs tied to trees or wishes for a happy future — at what quickly became shrines.

But Islam does not allow priests or shrines, just a direct dialogue with God. "The Sufism practiced here is more like Christianity than Islam, with its cults and saints," said Mohammed Shaffi, a soft-spoken Wahhabi spokesman. "It's taken on a form which shouldn't exist in Islam." The Wahhabis' ostentatious piety does not impress Makhachkala's sophisticates. "I can't see why they think that growing long beards and wearing their trousers three inches too short makes them holier than everyone else," said one suspicious academic in his 40's.

"They're kids dressing up as devout Arabs. This is not our tradition. It's time they grew up. And where," he added uneasily, "did they get those guns from in Karamakhi? And whom will they turn them on next?"

This year, as Dagestan and Chechnya celebrate their shared hero's anniversary, Russia is being reminded of its recurring fear that a newly "Islamicized" Dagestan

NAIROBI — Rebels in Sudan have come a long way since they started fighting the government in the years before independence in 1956, converting a secessionist agenda into a complex package of goals, regional experts say.

Yet in the minds of many Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) commanders, the struggle against Khartoum remains a simple one.

"They (Khartoum) see it as a war between Christians and Moslems. We see it as a freedom struggle."

Thomas Cirillo, commander of the SPLA's preparations to take the southern capital Juba, said earlier this month.

Officials of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the SPLA's political wing, said self-determination for the south would top their agenda at peace talks due to start in the Kenyan capital on October 28 (Tuesday).

The talks are organized under the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a grouping of seven regional states including Sudan and chaired by Kenya.

"The SPLA will be going in for self-determination and democracy, not only for south Sudan but for the whole of Sudan — a secular democratic state," said Bethuel Kiplagat, a former senior Kenyan diplomat with long experience of Sudan.

After a series of military and diplomatic gains this year the SPLA now stands a reasonable chance of eventually winning some form of self-determination as a concession from the National Islamic Front government, regional experts say.

SPLA leader John Garang insisted last month he did not want to secede from Khartoum and said the organization's goals were self-determination, a secular state, freedom of religion and more autonomy for the south.

Garang, a man of wide political contacts after nearly two decades of fighting and diplomacy, cuts an impressive figure as the SPLA's military leader and its most articulate advocate.

The SPLA argues that longstanding discrimination by the north against Christians and southerners underlies their war. Above all, its leaders wish to resist the imposition of Moslem *sharia* law throughout the country.

Some SPLA commanders, predominantly black Africans, refer to their northern adversaries as "Arabs" and are fired by stories of religious and ethnic persecution by the north. In one example, an SPLA garrison at Kalipapa on the Juba front reported rescuing a 13-year-old girl who said she had been taken captive by a northern family in 1995 and later abandoned.

"Finding this girl is significant because she is a southerner and the Arabs want to take children and make them slaves or train them to fight against us," Lieutenant Natalino Losuva said.

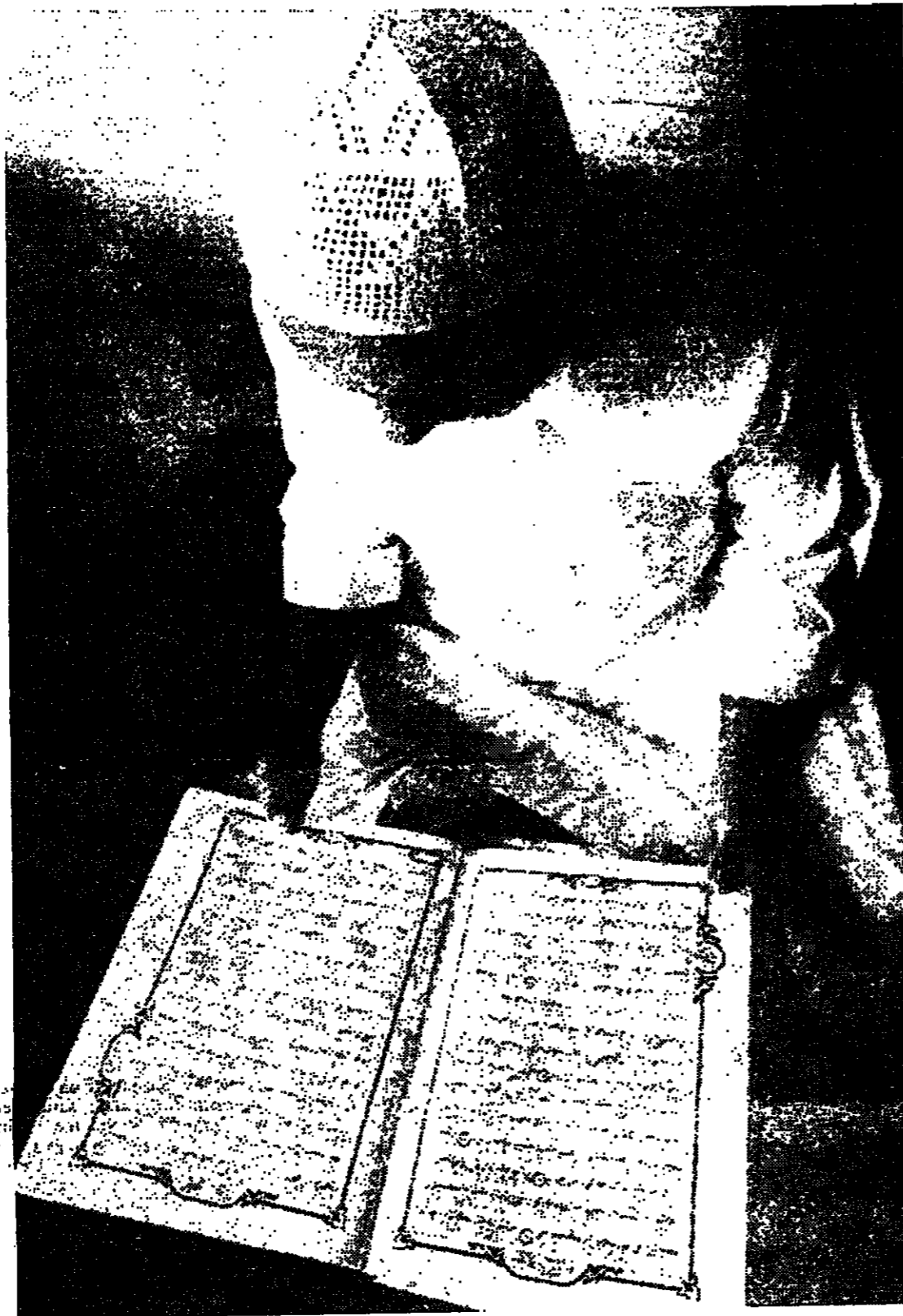
Yet critics accuse the SPLA of

Is the civil war about ethnic-religious issues or freedom?

domination by ethnic Dinkas and argue that even within its own territory the SPLA has struggled to convince people that the conflict is ideological.

The critics cite as evidence a split in 1991, reinforced in April this year, between the SPLA and former SPLA commander Riak Machar, an ethnic Nuer, who leads a mainly Nuer force in Blue Nile province.

More than 1.3 million people have died through war and famine in Sudan since 1983. Around nine million people live in the south's vast tracts of swampy savannah. The area, described by one aid worker as "some of the least-developed real estate in the world, contains oil, mineral and potential agricultural wealth." (Reuters)



For many Dagestanis, taking refuge in religion is a relief from the chaos in other parts of their post-Soviet lives. (Arie) Jerozolinski

meek local media focuses on "safe" questions about religion: whether good Moslems would accept the idea of putting up a memorial to Imam Shamil, or how best to celebrate this year's 200th anniversary of the warlord's birth.

A quarrel over the direction of Dagestan's religious movement is splitting public opinion and undermining the mufti's authority. Saidmukhammad Abubakarov,

two-year-old Russian Moslem Council.

In July, Khachilayev used the Moscow and local media to denounce Dagestan's other Moslem leaders and tongue-lashed traditional village sheikhs who quietly practiced their faith in Soviet times, saying they "all went through KGB instruction...and history will show how many are also British spies."

Last century, Shamil, *imam* of Dagestan and Chechnya, led his followers on a 30-year holy war against Russian colonial rule, spurred on to resistance against impossible odds by their belief in freedom and God.

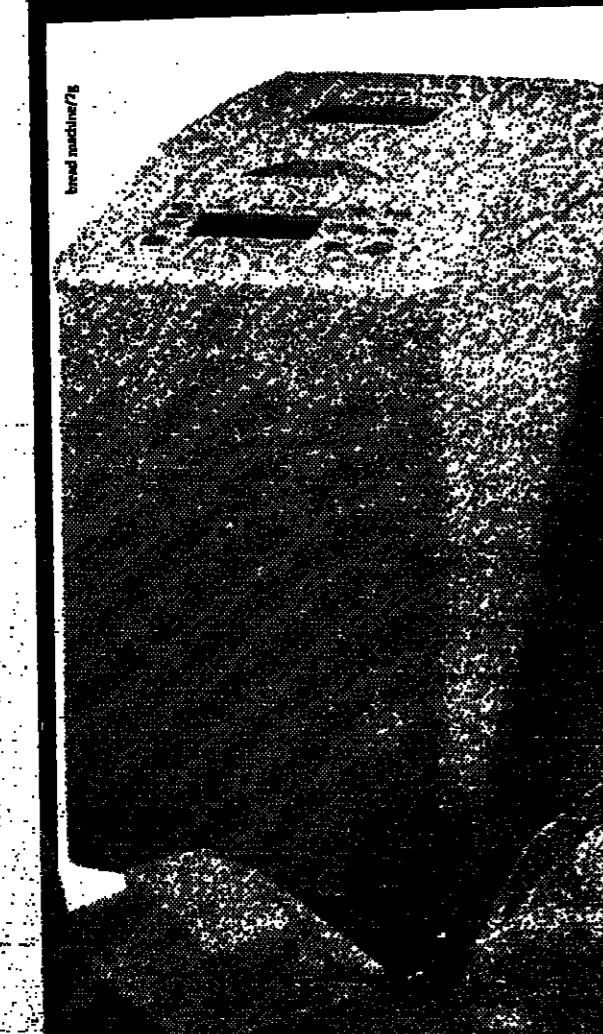
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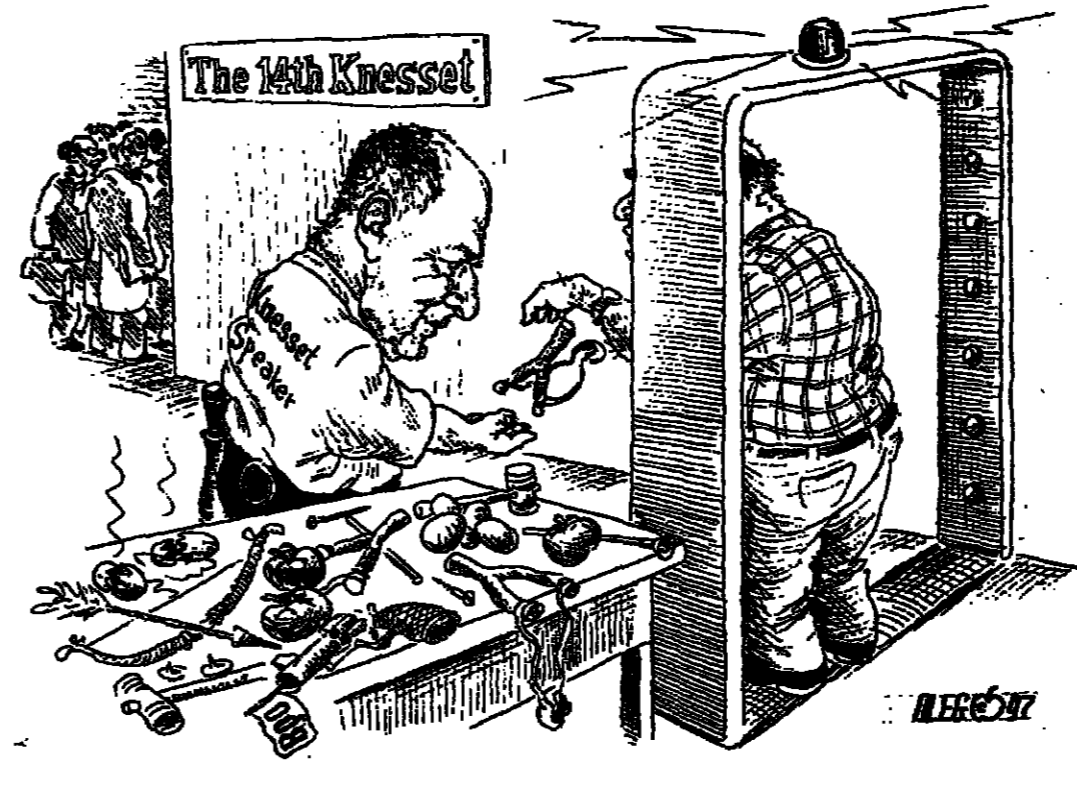
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Save the Neeman compromise

When it comes to destroying Jewish unity, there is one thing that the Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox communities can all agree on: The other side is at fault. Both sides have ample evidence to make their case, but until yesterday, the burden of proof lay on the shoulders of the Orthodox, who seemed to be rejecting the brewing recommendations of the Neeman Committee. But by rejecting the "time-out" requested by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, the Reform and Conservative movements have, in one misguided stroke, largely lifted that burden from the Orthodox and placed it on themselves. The Neeman Committee, as a forum for Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox rabbis to hammer out together a modus vivendi on the thorny issues of conversion and marriage, itself represents a breakthrough in the quest for Jewish unity. Many understandably doubted that it would come up with anything but the narrowest of bureaucratic fixes, such as tinkering with the "nationality" line on the official identity card. Instead, the committee, after months of hard work and setbacks, developed what could be the beginning of an historic compromise. On conversion, a joint body representing the major Jewish movements would be established by the Jewish Agency to prepare those interested in conversion. The final stage of the process would then be carried out by Orthodox courts specializing in conversion, according to Halacha. Regarding marriages, Reform and Conservative rabbis would, for the first time, be allowed to officiate at weddings, provided that the Chief Rabbinate provide the two halachically required witnesses. The unspoken guiding principle behind these arrangements is that Reform and Conservative defer to Orthodox requirements regarding Halacha, while the rabbinate opens a chink in its wall of objection to any form of recognition of its "rival" movements. On its face, it seems that Reform and Conservative have given in more, particularly on the issue of conversion. The compromise may not include a commitment from the rabbinate to reverse the trend towards increasing stringency in its interpretation of halachic requirements, particularly regarding the convert's future level of observance. Without such a commitment, or at least an implicit understanding, the new arrangement might not

address the existing obstacles to conversion. It would be a mistake, however, to portray the committee's proposals as a defeat for the Reform and Conservative movements. Though the degree of recognition afforded those movements may seem small, it is exactly the foot in the door that endless fighting in the High Court has not achieved for them. In the end, it is the Reform and Conservative movements themselves that are responsible for their lack of presence in Israel. The Orthodox establishment has certainly thrown up as many obstacles as possible, but it is far from clear that absent such obstacles, the Israeli public would gravitate toward American-style alternatives to Orthodoxy. Ultimately, the battle among the movements for the Israeli public will not be won in the courts or in the Knesset, but by attraction through personal example and familiarity. High-profile, politicized battles may be good for publicity and fundraising, but they hardly meet the real challenge of swaying hearts and minds, one on one. Right now, it is the Reform and Conservative movements that have chosen the political battlefield, rather than give a good compromise that they ostensibly support time to be accepted by the rabbinate. By seeming to throw that compromise out the window, the Reform and Conservative have alienated most of their potential allies against the conversion bill, not only in the Third Way and Yisrael Ba'Aliya, but even in Labor and Meretz. If these movements wisely back down and agree to Neeman's proposed delay of both the court cases and Knesset bills, the pressure will be back on the Orthodox establishment to accept the committee's proposals. The Labor Party, for one, is saying that it will oppose the conversion bill if, after a time-out of a few weeks, the rabbinate refuses to accept the Neeman compromise. Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, in an inexplicable fit of divisiveness, seemed to be almost alone in backing the Reform and Conservative's surprise move, saying that serious fight is better than a bad compromise. Burg and what ever firebrands advised this ill-timed step are wrong: The Neeman compromise is worth fighting for, and that means keeping the battle out of the courts and Knesset as long as necessary.



Loss of innocence

When acquitted by the Tel Aviv District Court, Jerusalem Mayor MK Ehud Olmert commented - half in earnest, half in jest - that, in retrospect, he was glad he had been indicted, since only thus was he able to prove his innocence. In contrast, in a television interview, former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair expressed dissatisfaction with the court's decision not to indict Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan. The court, claimed Ben-Yair, had missed an opportunity to "shape norms." Sentiments such as these reflect a dangerous attitude which has taken hold of the State Attorney's Office and the police. It is not the job of the courts to "dictate norms," it is the job of the legislature. The thesis which Ben-Yair presented, whereby courts are responsible for dictating norms, is a dangerous concept. In effect, it justifies drawing the bull's eye around the arrow after it has been fired. In Ben-Yair's view, the court must convict a defendant on the basis of norms to be determined during his trial. Let there be doubt about my own position on this issue: It is both the right and the duty of the State Attorney's Office and the police to uphold the law, follow leads and prepare indictments against criminals. No person is above the law. However, the worrisome phenomenon - especially when involving a public figure - of a person being convicted by the police or prosecution well before an indictment is weighed, is intolerable. These convictions take place in the media - nourished by police or judicial sources leaking slanted information. These sources utilize the power of the press to denounce the person in public, smear his name beyond repair and often to destroy his career. Perhaps one could come to terms with this phenomenon retroactively, in cases where the suspect ends up being convicted in court. In such cases, the suspect is "only" convicted twice. But

RUBY RIVLIN what about the other cases - increasingly routine - in which the suspect is never even indicted, let alone convicted? Examples of this abound. Eitan is now agriculture minister, rather than internal security minister, solely due to an indictment which the court determined should not have been submitted in the first place; Yaakov Neeman is not the

court of the courtroom, not daring to refuse satiating the masses' lust for witnessing public "hangings" of public officials. From the perspective of the defamed public official, this "hanging" is performed even if a court of law takes him off of the scaffold by way of a verdict. And even if an indictment is not served in the end. Why doesn't the State Attorney's Office take responsibility? Who is it so afraid of? The various organizations of nippers whose leaders make their living submitting highly publicized petitions to the High Court of Justice? A few months ago I proposed a law that would determine the duty of attorneys to examine the pre-indictment odds for securing court convictions. According to my proposal, a lawyer who submits an indictment without prior examination (defined in the proposed law), and who the court determines should not have submitted the indictment, should bear civil and criminal responsibility with regard to the defendant. In many countries, prosecutors are graded on a promotion scale based on the percentage of convictions (successes) they secure relative to indictments. This obliges lawyers - if only out of egocentric concerns - to examine the evidence at their disposal with a fine-tooth comb before deciding whether to indict. Recently the Knesset interior committee accepted my proposal to establish a set of ethical guidelines to which police investigators would be bound. The intention is to forbid manipulative leaks, to forbid publication of the names of investigators taking part in investigations (and who wish to further careers at the expense of famous suspects), and to determine the norms regarding how investigations should be conducted. Perhaps this should be adopted for the State Attorney's Office as well. The writer is a Likud MK.

Acquittals come too late from the point of view of public figures, whose good name is their main asset

THE problem here lies not only in the fact that there are public "convictions" nor in the abnormal situation at hand, in which public figures are considered guilty until proven otherwise (and even then, the court's decision is sometimes unwelcome, as pointed out earlier). The problem is the lack of courage on the part of the police and prosecution to take responsibility. It is the lack of their desire to make less populist decisions. It is the spinelessness of these bodies - which refrain from making assessments regarding chances for conviction prior to indictment as though it is not their job to do so. Instead, they roll the ball into the

justice minister for a similar reason. And let us not forget the slew of investigations conducted against the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office: Each opens with a great fanfare and a conviction in the media. Yet, so far, all have died in silence. Acquittals or case closures come too late, from the point of view of public figures, whose good name is their main asset.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MACCABIAH DAMAGE

Sir, - Nothing has damaged the relationship between the Jewish community of Australia and the people of Israel as much as the Maccabiah and its aftermath. Nothing has affected the perception of how Israel views the Jewish community of Australia as has the appalling lack of responsiveness and sheer footdragging of World Maccabi and the Israeli government in this matter. I write this open letter to the people of Israel because I believe that most of you felt ashamed that such a thing as the bridge collapse could occur in the first place, and in the hope that you will all urge the government and World Maccabi to take the action that is morally correct and ensure that justice is done. To date we have had relatively few requests of Israel, made away from the public glare, as we have always been careful to avoid embarrassing Israel, but we have

reached an untenable situation. We are aware that Israel has many concerns and that there are always emergencies and grave problems but we feel that we deserve better: The Maccabiah tragedy should be made a top priority. We requested a small amount of money as a loan to be repaid when the insurance money arrives. This request was ignored for a long time, before it was finally dealt with. We requested an analysis of the Yarkon water in order to ensure that treatment of our injured is done on a better informed basis. The authorities again dragged their feet and we ourselves had to take water samples for analysis in Australia. We have demanded that those responsible for the tragedy - those who built the bridge, those who approved the bridge, those who allowed this terrible incident to occur be identified and charged

and that those responsible be removed from their positions so that such tragedies would not occur in the future. The Dotan report was released - nothing resulted. We believe that the police report has been concluded and is in the hands of the government. Why is the government sitting on the report? Why have the results not been released? Why has no one taken or been forced to take responsibility? Why do the people of Israel not insist that their government do the decent, moral and just thing? We expect that the culpable parties be brought to speedy trial. We expect Israel to take the Jewish community of Australia seriously. DR. RON WEISER President, Zionist Federation of Australia. Sydney, Australia

QUEER COUNTRY

Hysterical criticism Sir, - It's amazing how low the once proud Labor Party has sunk. Instead of taking a leaf out of Tony Blair's campaign by telling the public what it would do if they were in power, we receive hysterical criticism in their efforts to bring down our elected government, which is trying to save Israel from the quagmire the Labor government put Israel into. The Labor Party should wake up and try to come to terms with its loss of power. I'm glad I do not vote Labor anymore. Haifa. EVELYN DAR-EL

Returning home from New York City just before Rosh Hashana, I can only marvel at the kind of queer country Israel has become. In New York dawn breaks around seven o'clock in the morning and millions of Jews, including the messiahs of Crown Heights work and pray without a murmur of protest. Here we idle in bed because of the end of Daylight Savings Time whilst the sun is up in the sky. If bright daylight can be squandered in such a way, our future looks dim. Givatayim. YAIR NOAM

My fourth grade class is studying geography and would like to know what your region of the world looks like. Would you please help by sending a postcard or picture of what your area looks like? When our unit is over we will have a picture travel guide of many parts of our country and the world. Please send your postcards to Alison Pearl 1 Green Spruce Littleton, Co. 80127 USA ALISON PEARL Littleton, Colorado.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On October 28, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that a large section of the Balfour Forest, some 50,000 of the 400,000 trees, had been destroyed by fire. Arson was suspected in this great conflagration. 50 years ago: On October 28, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that in Petah Tikva a two-story

house was wrecked and two young men injured when an explosion in a second-floor room shook the whole area. "The Jews of Palestine are prepared to carve their own destiny and they have a well-trained army," Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver told the 33rd Annual Hadassah Convention in Atlantic City. The UN Ad Hoc Partition

Committee on Palestine split into various working groups while the US served notice that within the next few days it would offer "specific and concrete suggestions" for carrying out the partition of Palestine, including "actual plans for the establishment of governments there." Alexander Zvielli

Chinese fact and fantasy

The mists of conspiracy have been floating over the discussion of US-China policy, but it wasn't until a few days ago that one heard it said out loud. It was spoken by Arianna Huffington at a debate ("Firing Line," Oct. 24) on the question of trading with China. We have had month after month of public hearings having to do with the financing of the Democratic campaign of 1996, and the stress has been on the Asian presence. All that money directed to the campaign asking for - what? Huffington says it's obvious. She suggested that what had been bought is the president of the United States and the Congress. Bought to do what? Bought to ignore the human rights report of the State Department and to continue trading with China under the most-favored-nation clause. Now Huffington had intimated her approach early in the two-hour debate by making a most extraordinary accusation. It is that Henry Kissinger argues in favor of continuing trade because his consulting firm does business in China. She cited the Disney Co., which retained Kissinger Associates a fortnight ago, allegedly to guide Disney through the Chinese flak over the forthcoming Disney movie "Kundun," which dramatizes the communists' genocidal assault on the Tibet of the Dalai Lama. Kissinger was floored by the charge and groped unsuccessfully for appropriate words to meet with it in the minute or so left to him in that segment of the debate. He managed to say that a mere 3 percent of the business done by Kissinger Associates relates to China, but Huffington then charged that Kissinger was slow

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR. to react to the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989 because of his commercial predilections on China. Kissinger did say, in the final few seconds, that he thought it wrong to impose greed after 40 years of policy analysis under academic and public scrutiny. But the audience (of 7,000) roared with excitement at the drama - the

When I recommend policies on China, you should be prepared to assume I recommend them as what I consider to be in the best interests of the United States. What hovered over the scene at the University of Mississippi was the question: Is it conceivable that the deployment of Chinese money is responsible for the dispensation under which our trade policies with China are operating? My own reaction is: Sure, and Vincent Foster did not commit suicide, Lee Harvey Oswald was only one of the assassins, and Oliver Stone is right, the lid on the true story was put down with the cooperation of the FBI, the CIA, president Johnson and the Supreme Court. And yes, Robert Welch was actually correct, President Eisenhower was a clandestine communist. The investigating committees have clearly demonstrated that there were a lot of funny-money machinations in the 1996 campaign and that Asian and Asian-related agents were very active. But to suggest that our policy - to continue to trade with China - is dictated by commercial greed and Chinese manipulation staggers the mind. We are talking about a policy endorsed by every living president, every living ex-secretary of state, every living ex-national security affairs adviser. To suggest that Henry Kissinger would counsel policy contrary to the interests of his country as he understands them leaves the observer speechless. How to explain such a charge? In the Huffington epistemology, one would have to find a commercial reason for it. (Universal Press Syndicate)

To suggest that US policy is dictated by commercial greed and Chinese manipulation staggers the mind

striking Greek-American writer/activist charging the former secretary of state of selling out to Mammon. Kissinger, for all his skills as a diplomat, is inept at crowd control in public debates. He might have turned to Huffington and said: If I reasoned about you as you reason about me, wouldn't I venture that the only reason you married that mindless California millionaire was to clutch on to his money, which you did, and then divorce him, which you have done? But I am prepared to assume you had other motives in marrying him. On Tiananmen Square, you are correct that I did not react to the military seizure with astonished indignation. What astonished me wasn't that the army moved into the square, it was that the protesters were permitted for so long to preside over the square - China is not a free

country. When I recommend policies on China, you should be prepared to assume I recommend them as what I consider to be in the best interests of the United States. What hovered over the scene at the University of Mississippi was the question: Is it conceivable that the deployment of Chinese money is responsible for the dispensation under which our trade policies with China are operating? My own reaction is: Sure, and Vincent Foster did not commit suicide, Lee Harvey Oswald was only one of the assassins, and Oliver Stone is right, the lid on the true story was put down with the cooperation of the FBI, the CIA, president Johnson and the Supreme Court. And yes, Robert Welch was actually correct, President Eisenhower was a clandestine communist. The investigating committees have clearly demonstrated that there were a lot of funny-money machinations in the 1996 campaign and that Asian and Asian-related agents were very active. But to suggest that our policy - to continue to trade with China - is dictated by commercial greed and Chinese manipulation staggers the mind. We are talking about a policy endorsed by every living president, every living ex-secretary of state, every living ex-national security affairs adviser. To suggest that Henry Kissinger would counsel policy contrary to the interests of his country as he understands them leaves the observer speechless. How to explain such a charge? In the Huffington epistemology, one would have to find a commercial reason for it. (Universal Press Syndicate)

As an Israeli, my identity card states my nationality as being Jewish - and that is also how I feel. Perhaps some day Israel will redefine itself as the state of all its citizens, and then my nationality will be Israeli, though I shall still be Jewish as opposed to Arab. But, for better or worse, that day is still a far way off. I suspect that if Netanyahu were to give the issue some serious thought, he would conclude that he is a Jew more in the sense that I have just described than in the sense of Rabbi Kadouri, with whom he shares a birthday. However, I also suspect that Netanyahu never really gave the issue any serious thought, and the words he whispered in the ears of the mystic were uttered with the same degree of seriousness and depth as those uttered by a child talking on another child to some passing adult he wishes to impress. Perhaps at the age of 48, it is time for our prime minister to grow up. The writer is a political scientist.

I am a Jew

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

What did Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu mean when he whispered into the ear of the mystic, Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri, that the Left has forgotten what it is to be Jewish? According to Netanyahu and his spokesman Shai Barak, this statement should have been understood in conjunction with his remark about the Left having handed Israel's security over to the Arabs - a problematic sentence in itself. If indeed that is what he meant, then it is Netanyahu who knows very little of Jewish history. For two thousand years Jews left their security in the hands of God and foreign rulers, and we know where that led us. It was the modern Zionist movement, under the leadership of the Left (as of the mid-1930s), that said that the security of the Jews could only be ensured through a wise combination of self-defense, diplomacy and trying to seek accommodation with the Arabs - though not at any price. This was Ben-Gurion's policy and this was Yitzhak Rabin's policy. The Zionist Right always placed emphasis on military power, belittling the importance of diplomacy and rejecting accommodation with the Arabs, if any sort of price had to be paid. Thus, if Netanyahu meant what he said he meant, he once again proved that history is not one of his fortes. However, anyone who heard the actual recording of what Netanyahu said, cannot but be impressed that he said two separate things: the first, that the Left had forgotten what it is to be a Jew and the second, that the Left had handed Israel's security over to the Arabs. While I do not wish to go once again into the question of whether Israel's security is better served by means of cooperation with the Arabs or clashing with them head on, I would like to relate to the issue of what it means to be Jewish, if you happen to be secular, which is what I and most of my left-wing colleagues are, and presumably Netanyahu as well. I AM A JEW. I am a Jewess according to Halacha because my mother is a Jewess, and I am a Jewess according to the Law of Return, because my mother is a Jewess and I am not a member of another faith. According to Orthodox Jews I am not a "good Jewess," since I observe only those commands that suit my universal-humanistic inclinations. That does not, however, make me any less Jewish than any other Jew. I am a Jewess. I was born a Jewess and shall die a Jewess, and I do not need Netanyahu to remind me what being a Jew means, for I never forgot. Like many other secular Jews in this country, my Jewishness manifests itself in the fact that my history, my terms of reference, my holidays and my fate are Jewish, and had I lived in Europe in the years 1939-45 I would most likely have ended my life in the furnaces of Auschwitz because of my Jewishness. I am a non-believing Jew, since I do not believe in God - certainly not the God of the Jews as he is perceived by Jewish Orthodoxy. I would define myself as an agnostic. I am a Jewess who was born in Palestine and lives in Israel - the Jewish state - as of choice. Almost 30 years ago I could have opted for a different life; marrying a non-Jewish man of fine character and personal qualities and impressive professional achievements, and raising children with a very different identity to my own in a peaceful European capital. But I chose not to. As an Israeli, my identity card states my nationality as being Jewish - and that is also how I feel. Perhaps some day Israel will redefine itself as the state of all its citizens, and then my nationality will be Israeli, though I shall still be Jewish as opposed to Arab. But, for better or worse, that day is still a far way off. I suspect that if Netanyahu were to give the issue some serious thought, he would conclude that he is a Jew more in the sense that I have just described than in the sense of Rabbi Kadouri, with whom he shares a birthday. However, I also suspect that Netanyahu never really gave the issue any serious thought, and the words he whispered in the ears of the mystic were uttered with the same degree of seriousness and depth as those uttered by a child talking on another child to some passing adult he wishes to impress. Perhaps at the age of 48, it is time for our prime minister to grow up. The writer is a political scientist.

How... Peace... There is no peace... experience in coexist...



How Jews fared 'Under Crescent and Cross'

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

Once upon a time, in a not-so-distant land, Jews and Arabs lived in harmony. The Jews paid discriminatory taxes, had to wear an article of clothing that set them off from Moslems, had no right of political self-determination, were prohibited by law from building new synagogues or repairing old ones, were required by law to take a subservient role in any business partnerships with Moslems and were, by law, second-class citizens. It was a golden age.

Off the books, the Jews prospered, lived full Jewish lives, built new synagogues and repaired old ones, were generally dominant in business partnerships with Moslems, mingled fraternally with Moslems at various social levels, and enjoyed extensive self-rule.

The land was Egypt — and, by extension, most of the Arab lands. The time was the high Middle Ages, the 10-13th centuries.

Are there lessons that Israelis and Arabs can learn today from that not-bad-at-all experience in coexistence?

No, says Prof. Mark Cohen of Princeton University, not if the aim is to use that history as a base for current policies. The circumstances then and now are just too dissimilar.

Yes, says Cohen, an authority on Jewish-Muslim relations in the Middle Ages, once Israelis and Palestinians have already made peace. This history can cement myths that will be useful in enabling the two peoples to live alongside each other as good neighbors.

Cohen, who has just completed a sabbatical at the Hebrew University, is the author of *Under Crescent and Cross*, which deals with Jewish life in the Christian and Islamic worlds during the Middle Ages. Those were two very different worlds for the Jews.

or poor, was obliged to pay a burdensome head tax to which Moslems were not subject. In addition, taxes on their commercial dealings were twice that applied to Moslems. Members of the minorities were obliged to wear special belts to make it clear to all that they were not Moslems. There were restrictions too on building or repairing houses of worship. In practice, notes Cohen, a professor of Near Eastern studies, these restrictions were honored mostly in the breach by the Moslem authorities except for taxation. "That's money after all, and they took it seriously."

Unlike in Europe, Jews were permitted to own land, both urban and rural. Jews were involved in agriculture as they had been in Babylon as well. A major reason for the difference in attitudes towards Jews in the Moslem world from that in the Christian world was theological, contends Cohen. "Mohammed was not a messiah, he was a prophet. He recognized the existence of other religions. And he wasn't killed. There is no decree for which the Jews could be blamed." The cross was an icon which served as a constant reminder to the Christian masses that Jesus had been crucified, but there was no similar icon in Islam that could serve as an incitement against Jews.

Another factor in the relative acceptance of the Jews was that they were not the only religious minority around as they were in Europe. Christians shared their status with them, which made them less of the "other."

While Jews in Europe were relative newcomers, easily distinguishable, Jews in Islamic lands were indigenous. "For the most part, they looked exactly like the Arabs," says Cohen. They also shared, to a large extent, their cultural milieu. There were largely Jewish neighborhoods but no exclusively Jewish ghettos.

Are there lessons that Israelis and Arabs can learn today from that not-bad-at-all experience in coexistence?

In the Christian countries, Jews could not own land, they lived in ghettos and occupied very confined niches in the economy, spurned by Christians. They were not indigenous and stood out physically, culturally and as newcomers. Above all, to the Christians the Jews were the despised killers of Christ.

On the face of it, the situation of the Jews in Islam didn't seem all that rosy, either. It was a tenet of Islamic faith that Jews and Christians were less worthy than Moslems and subject to restrictions. Every member of these minorities, rich

Medieval documents found a century ago in the Cairo Geniza indicate that Jews and Arabs often lived next to each other amicably during that period. The Geniza also shows that far from being confined to a few occupations stunted by the majority population, such as moneylending, the Jews in Moslem lands practiced hundreds of occupations and were apparently not subject to any occupational restrictions.

"The marketplace was an interdenominational and nearly egalitarian venue," notes Cohen. "Islamic law" permitted



Medieval documents found a century ago in the Cairo Geniza indicate that Jews and Arabs often lived next to each other amicably during that period. Solomon Schecter works on Geniza fragments at the Cambridge University Library in 1898.

business partnerships with non-Moslems, as long as the Moslems had the dominant role. It was common for Jews and Moslems to go into business together. And we see from the Geniza that despite the law, the Jews were often clearly the controlling partner.

Jewish and Arab partners, we see from letters found in the Geniza, trusted each other and were personal friends. Jewish doctors and Jews serving in the upper ranks of the government bureaucracy mingled as colleagues with Moslem counterparts.

Doctors like Maimonides, for instance, took turns with Moslem doctors on the duty roster at hospitals and exchanged medical knowledge and, presumably, gossip. "Everybody knew who was superior, religiously and legally," says Cohen. "The Moslems were. The Jews didn't think so, but they knew the Moslems thought so. Personal friendship was frowned upon in Arab law because the Arab is supposed to be on top. In spite of this, there was a significant amount of mutuality."

Although Islam forbade the construction of new synagogues and churches, such structures are found in towns built after the rise of Islam, clearly in viola-

tion of that edict. Likewise with the ban on repairs to Jewish and Christian houses of worship — the synagogue in which the Cairo Geniza was found had itself been extensively restored more than once.

Jews were forbidden by Islamic law to teach their children the Koran, but copies of a Koran written in Hebrew letters were found in the Geniza synagogue storeroom. Why would Jews have wanted to study the Koran?

"They were interested in Islam," says Cohen. "It wasn't a matter of knowing your enemy but knowing your neighbor. Islam is very close to Judaism, much more so than Christianity, and the Jews felt this." Many Jews were in fact drawn to Sufism, a form of Islamic mysticism. Among them was the son of Maimonides, Abraham, who inherited his father's place as head of the Jewish community. Abraham maintained that some Sufis were worthy disciples of the Jewish prophets than were many of his fellow Jews. Some of his congregation, disturbed at reforms Abraham introduced in synagogue practice, appealed to the sultan against these innovations, another instance of symbiotic relations.

Jews felt comfortable in Islamic religious courts to which civil cases were brought. "They were treated with equality there," says Cohen. "There is no evidence in the documents that they were disadvantaged."

The rabbis came to terms with rulings in the Islamic courts even though it is forbidden in Halacha for Jews to go to the courts of the *goyim*, and they accepted legal documents executed in those courts as valid. Maimonides's responsa refer frequently to the interplay of Islamic and Jewish law.

The poll tax was indeed onerous, particularly on the poor. But, notes Cohen, it constituted a precious insurance policy. "If you paid your tax, your personal and property rights and your freedom of religion were protected. Islam was not ambiguous or arbitrary about this. That's the reason Jews were so anxious to pay it and get their receipt."

Differing modern assessments of this period — golden age or golden myth — are colored by the politics and weltanschauung of the viewer. In the 19th century, European Jewish scholars conceived of it, says Cohen, "as a kind of interfaith utopia" and used it as an argument against the Christian societies in

which they lived — "Why can't you treat us as well as the Moslems did then?"

In our own time, says the Princeton scholar, this view has been taken up by the Arabs for their own purposes — as an argument against Zionism.

"The Arabs adopted the myth of an interfaith utopia and said that if there is a problem today it is because of Zionism. 'Do away with Zionism, with the state of Israel, and let's return to the halcyon days of the golden age.' In recent decades, a countermuth has been promulgated by some Jewish writers who portray Islam as a persecutory religion from its beginning."

"Today the historical issue of Moslem-Jewish relations has political force," notes Cohen. "If you believe that relations have always been terrible there is no reason to trust any Arab today. The right wing favors this interpretation because it supports their political position."

However, the findings from the Cairo Geniza published in recent decades refute such a view, says Cohen. "Islam is not innately tolerant of other religions any more than Judaism and Christianity are," he says.

"But there are theological reasons why Islam's attitude towards Judaism is different than Christianity's. There were also historical circumstances which mitigated this intolerance of Islam."

It is important to be aware today of Jewish-Muslim relations in the Middle Ages, says Cohen, because many people tend to equate Islam with Hamas. However, it is important as well to understand that the political-social situation in the Middle Ages was not comparable to today's. The image of a golden age has little relevance at the negotiating table.

"When peace is made here — and I believe there will eventually be a Palestinian state — it will have to be on the basis of modern realpolitik and in light of conflicting nationalisms, not on the basis of medieval history," says Cohen.

"Peace will be achieved when the Moslems come to terms with the fact that they are not going to return to the medieval situation in which they ruled in Palestine and when the Jews recognize that they are going to have to grant self-determination to the Arabs, who have a claim to it."

"Once the parties are at the point where they not only begrudge each other's existence but actually learn to live together in political and economic symbiosis, then I believe they can fall back on the memory of the past and feel that there is something intrinsic in Moslem-Jewish relations that can give encouragement to a new kind of relationship."

From Cohen's mouth to God's ear.

'Peace Flight' Catholics believe in the power of prayer

Hundreds of Roman Catholic pilgrims arrived in the Holy Land this month to pray for peace. But as Judith Sudilovsky reports, not everyone understood their message

Some people are not content to sit back and watch as world leaders attempt to make peace. These people not only feel the need but also the ability to be involved in that struggle on a personal level. And while the international group of 830 Catholics who arrived in Israel this month know that they may not have a direct effect on the conflict here, they believe that with their prayers for peace they are acting as a symbol and a sign for peace. God, they say, works in mysterious ways.

"People believe they can't change the world, that what they do will have no effect, but that is not true," said Alan Ames, an author and healer from Perth, Australia, who has taken part in the two previous "Two-Hearts Peace Flights" to Russia and China several years ago.

"If people think that way and do nothing, nothing will change. But if each individual decides to stand up to be counted for peace and love, things will change."

The pilgrims, who hail from 14 different countries, arrived in Israel as part of a 20-day around-the-world peace flight which had already taken them to Japan, the Philippines and Russia where they also prayed for God's intervention in bringing peace to the world. From here they were scheduled to go on to Italy, France, Portugal and finally New York.

Father "Bing" Edgardo Avellano of the Philippines, who has been the spiritual leader of all three Peace Flights, says the participants have come in the spirit of prayer and reparation, offering their own small personal sacrifices in atonement for the sins of the world.

They are not attempting to change anyone. Avellano said, they just want to be an example of how it is possible to love one another regardless of race, religion and national backgrounds.

Of course, added Archbishop Pedro R. Dean of Palo, Archdiocese of Palo, Philippines, they do not expect immediate results from their prayers. They are simply "planting the seed" and making their best

efforts through prayer and sacrifice to achieve peace "through Him, of course," Dean said.

In addition to their prayers the Peace Pilgrims brought with them the traveling statue of the Virgin Mary of Our Lady of Fatima, which was blessed by Pope Pius XII in 1947. According to believers, the statue has wept 30 times since the first sighting of the Virgin Mary 80 years ago in Fatima, north of Lisbon.

She is said to have appeared six times in 1917 to three peasant children. Her main message at the time was devotion to Mary, daily recitation of the rosary, the conversion of Russia to her message of prayer and peace, and the triumph of her peaceful message world-wide.

The Two-Hearts Peace Flights of Catholic pilgrims was the brainchild of Dr. Rosalie A. Turton, president of Foundation 101, an organization based in New Jersey which is dedicated to devotion to Mary.

"The peace flight is open only to people who are sincere devotees of Our Lady," said Turton. "We come to bring peace. People on the flight are willing to abandon themselves to whatever God wants of us."

In Nazareth the group was welcomed by Mayor Ramez Jerasi who praised their efforts and spoke of reconciliation between Arabs and Jews.

On Friday, the pilgrims led a peace procession with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima through the streets of Bethlehem that were filled with thousands of people. The procession ended at the Church of the Nativity with a Mass celebrated by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah.

Local Palestinian Olga Hasfura, 72, genuflected several times in front of the statue and clasped her hands in prayer. "We think this virgin came here to make peace in Bethlehem and for all people all over the world," she declared.

For local businessman Nicolas Canawati, who sponsored the procession, the event not only had a spiritual significance but also was a concrete expression of

the Christian presence in Bethlehem. "For the last 10 years, with all the problems here and in the world, we haven't seen any Christian celebrations other than Christmas. During the intifada we could not do this and people were missing it."

Standing in the throng, Owatuf Handal, 32, hoisted her youngest children one by one to her shoulders, as she pointed to the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Her son Antoine, four, clasped in his hands a statue of the Virgin Mary and held it up towards the statue of Fatima.

Ironically, the man who organized the whole procession in Bethlehem was Shalom Even, an Israeli Jew who runs a tour company out of Toronto and who was responsible for the groups' itinerary while in Israel.

NEEMAN

Continued from Page 1

The decision to go back to the court, he said, came because the Conservative and Reform movements felt they had come to an impasse, with no one to talk to in the religious establishment.

Bandel revealed that he had consulted with MK Yossi Sarid, who as head of Merez, was a co-petitioner in a petition to the court to seat Merez-nominated Reform and Conservative representatives on the religious councils. "Sarid encouraged us to delay the court action," Bandel said.

Bandel said the decision followed what was considered a weak response to a demand for rabbinical authorities to agree to sit and talk with Reform and Conservative leaders.

He said that Rabbi David Grossman of Migdal Ha'emek and Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen, both members of the Chief Rabbinical Council, "said that we are Jews."

"We thank them for that, but we didn't hear that they are ready to talk to us or that they are ready for compromise,"

the group's message of peace and cooperation seemed to have been lost on Mohammed Jabari, Governor of Bethlehem for the Palestinian Authority, who in welcoming the pilgrims made no mention of the cooperative spirit which allowed the event to take place. He chose, instead, to criticize Israel.

"All people pray to save this Holy Land and to achieve the real peace which Israel aims to destroy and [aims to] bring the area back to bloodshed and violence," said Jabari.

For their part, the pilgrims seemed confused.

"We are here for both sides. The idea of peace is for both sides," said Jacklyn Gally of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "The political part, that doesn't come from us."



Catholics march for peace in Bethlehem carrying a statue of the Virgin Mary of Our Lady of Fatima. (Debbie Hill)

PRIMAKOV

Continued from Page 1

The current Israeli stand, as outlined to him in considerable detail especially in his over-time tete-a-tete with Netanyahu, evidently convinced him that there may be a sound basis to renew the negotiations which were broken off 19 months ago.

The possibility that the diplomatic ice may be broken by a Russian rather than an American emissary (secretaries of state Warren Christopher and Madeleine Albright were unable to accomplish this goal) did not deter the Israeli side.

"Israel wants to renew the talks and by whose means is not important," said Netanyahu's director of communications, David Bar-Ilan.

Levy revealed Primakov's change of plans after conferring with visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Tarja Kaarina Halonen.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Aviv Shir-On agreed with

Primakov's contention that Syria is an important factor in the peace-making equation.

The Russian diplomatic initiative was seen as a new vindication of Moscow's status as a co-sponsor of the 1991 Madrid Conference.

Among the points stressed by Primakov while in Jerusalem was that there can be no regional peace without Syria being a party to it, "especially without Lebanon."

Jordan and Egypt are due to be the last stops on Primakov's itinerary.

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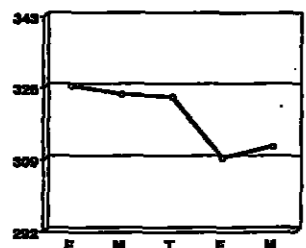
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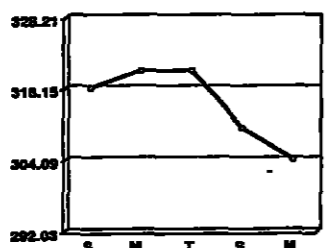
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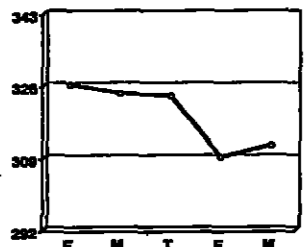


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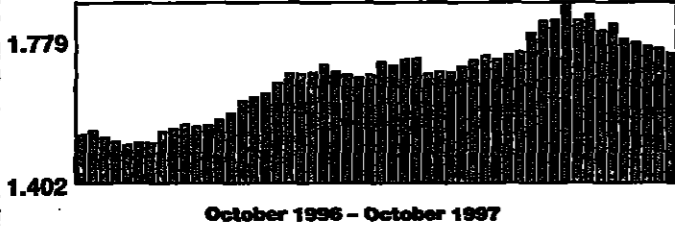


OIL

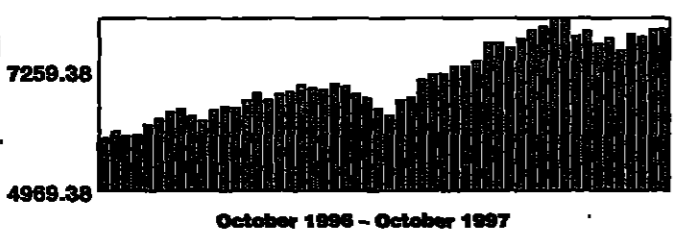
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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Eisenbergs bring compromise to court

Globes News Service

Seven months after the death of billionaire Shoul Eisenberg, his heirs have reached a compromise over his estate.

At this stage, it is not clear whether Hardy and Zuchovitzky, who have not joined the agreement, will elect to conduct a court battle, or will ultimately join.

The principles of the agreement were presented yesterday to Tel Aviv District Court Deputy President Jesse Levitt.

The estate is to be shared among all family members, as follows: Erwin Eisenberg is to receive 35 percent of the estate; Shoul's wife, Leah Eisenberg, will receive 45%.

At this stage, it is not clear whether Hardy and Zuchovitzky, who have not joined the agreement, will elect to conduct a court battle, or will ultimately join.



Dow Jones plummets
Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shortly after yesterday's opening bell.

Philip Morris Europe head to stand trial for tax fraud in Italy

By ALESSANDRA GALLONI

ROME - An Italian judge said yesterday he had ordered the president of US tobacco giant Philip Morris' European branch, Walter Thoma, to stand trial for tax fraud but had dropped charges of criminal association.

The bulk of its cigarettes sold in Italy are made under license by the state tobacco department Monopoli, which forms part of the Finance Ministry.

Prosecutors, who first made their charges last year, allege that Philip Morris used Interaba as a front company to take care of its Italian interests to avoid full taxation on royalties it received from Monopoli.

Intel to buy Digital's chip business

By GERARD MEUCHNER and Jerusalem Post Staff

SANTA CLARA, California - Intel Corp. said it will buy Digital Equipment Corp.'s chip making operations for \$700 million and produce its Alpha chip to end a patent dispute in which Digital accused Intel of stealing technology.

Digital's Jerusalem plant won't face cuts

analysts have said. Licensing of Alpha by Intel validates the chip in a way that Digital never could, they said.

Intel will also acquire Digital's semiconductor manufacturing operations in Hudson, Massachusetts, and development plants in Austin, Texas, and Jerusalem.

TAAS-Israel Industries ends first half with \$22.9 million profit

By STEVE RODAN

TAAS-Israel Industries yesterday reported a net profit of \$22.9 million for the first half of the year. Executives said this represents a dramatic rebound from nearly a decade of losses.

Executives said that earnings on sales for the first half of 1997 was 5.6 percent compared to 2.1% last year.

TAAS sales to the local market increased by 22% and exports by 26%.

BITS & BYTES

G-Connect receives \$3m investment from Genesis Partners, a venture capital fund managed by Eddie Shalev Management and Oppenheimer & Co., has agreed to invest \$3m. in G-Connect, a subsidiary of Teledata, in exchange for a 16.67% stake.

Magic chosen by Ciba Grimsby: Magic Software Enterprises won a contract to become the standard development platform for Ciba Grimsby, part of the Ciba Geigy Group.

Technomatrix receives \$1m. order from Fiat Group: Technomatrix Technologies Ltd. recently announced that it has received repeat orders from the Fiat Group of Italy totaling approximately \$1 million.

Bank of Israel leaves interest rate unchanged

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Bank of Israel yesterday announced that it will leave the key lending rate unchanged at 13.4 percent for the month of November.

Despite a negative September consumer price index, which was announced on October 15, and analysts' expectations that the rate would be lowered, the central bank said it decided to maintain the current rate in an effort to drive inflation down.

Finance Committee okays sale of Afridar, Weed Control Co.

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved a request by the Government Companies Authority to sell Afridar, to private investors, the Prime Minister's office said.

The Weed Control Co.'s 1996 net earnings totaled NIS 55,000 and revenues amounted to NIS 23m. The company has 65 employees.

contract to comply with current labor agreements.

Meanwhile, the first stage of the options plan was being prepared for the privatization of Bank Leumi and Israel Discount Bank.

Privatization is expected to yield at least NIS 5 billion in revenue in 1998.

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Table listing leading 100 TASE issues with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

RETZEF CONTINUOUS TRADING SHARES

Table listing continuous trading shares with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

Table listing small capitalization TASE issues with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

Main table of financial data with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

Table of financial data, likely representing the AMEX section.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli shares in New York with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

NASDAQ

Table listing NASDAQ listed companies with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

NYSE

Table listing NYSE listed companies with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table listing international shares with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

Large table of financial data, likely representing the NYSE section.

Vertical advertisements on the right margin, including 'ISRAELI MONEY MAIL' and other financial services.

Marlins are Kingfish, Indians still cursed

Bases-loaded hit in 11th inning gives Florida World Series crown

MIAMI (AP) — The Florida Marlins got their money's worth, and so did baseball fans.

In a Game 7 that got more thrilling with each pitch, the Marlins delivered the World Series trophy they spent nearly \$100 million to capture. But it was the way they won it that not even billionaire owner Wayne Huizenga could have bargained for.

Down to their last at-bat, the Marlins sprang to life just in time, beating the long-suffering Cleveland Indians 3-2 Sunday night on Edgar Renteria's RBI single with two outs in the bottom of the 11th inning.

While the 5-year-old Marlins became the youngest expansion team to win a championship — and the first wild card — the Indians only added to a half-century of heartbreak.

Cleveland was just a double-play grounder away from its first championship since 1948, but Craig Counsell's sacrifice fly in the ninth tied it at 2. The Marlins then took advantage of an error by second baseman Tony Fernandez to score the winning run on Renteria's bases-loaded hit.

"I was a little concerned. We haven't given up all year — tonight wasn't the time to give up. When we walked into the clubhouse tonight, we knew we were going to be world champions," Marlins manager Jim Leyland said.

A see-saw Series finished with the teams alternating wins for all seven games. Devoid of drama for the first six games, Game 7 packed an entire season's worth of thrills into one night that kept getting better as the clock passed midnight.

The Marlins had never had a winning year until their spending spree, and it paid off — barely. They eclipsed the mark of the New York Mets, who won in their eighth season in 1969, as the fastest to the top.

This was just the third Game 7 to go to extra innings. It happened in 1991 in one of the most memorable games ever, the night Jack Morris pitched all 10 innings to lead Minnesota over Atlanta 1-0, and also in 1924.

Florida led the majors with 26 wins in their final at-bat. One of them came in the Marlins' first



WILD THINGS — The Florida Marlins, the first wild card team to win the World Series, celebrate after 11th-inning victory.

postseason game when Renteria's two-out single in the ninth inning beat San Francisco in the opener of the division series.

Jay Powell pitched one inning for the victory. Charles Nagy, passed over in favor of rookie Jarret Wright for the Game 7 start, lost in his first relief appearance since 1990.

Florida pitcher Liván Hernandez became just the second rookie to win the Series MVP award, joining Larry Sherry of Los Angeles in 1959. The trophy was even more special for the 22-year-old Hernandez, who won Games 1 and 5, because his mother was allowed by Cuban officials to visit the US for the final game.

"The victory, I give to her," he said, shouting so his translator could hear him. "This trophy, it's hers." Indians manager Mike Hargrove found no joy on his 48th birthday. Born a year after the Indians' last title, his club added the most devastating defeat to a city that has only known losing for too

long. It was their second World Series loss in three years. "I don't really know what to tell the team other than they played hard all year long," Hargrove said. "We overcame long odds to get where we're at. We played hard, we didn't give the game away, it could've gone either way." Cleveland relief ace Jose Mesa

was just a double-play grounder away from clinching the championship in the ninth, but Counsell tied it with a deep fly to right. Bobby Bonilla, one of Florida's high-priced free agents, singled to start the 11th against Nagy. One out later, Counsell hit a grounder to the right side and Bonilla may have screened Fernandez, racing

to third when the ball rolled past the second baseman's glove. Bonilla said, "I'm not running that well, I have the hamstring, the way I was running, I wasn't going to get to second anyway."

Visions of Bill Buckner's mis-play in the 1986 Series stirred as the Indians intentionally walked Jim Eisenreich to load the bases. Devon White grounded into a force play at the plate before Renteria lined an 0-1 pitch past Nagy for the victory.

The Marlins raced on to the field in triumph while Indians first baseman Jim Thome crouched alone in front of the mound.

Fernandez gave the Indians the lead in third with a two-run single off Florida starter Al Leiter.

Bonilla made it 2-1 in the seventh with a home run, the only run allowed by the 21-year-old Wright.

Thome drew a leadoff walk in the third and Marquis Grissom followed with a single on another full count. That brought up Wright, and once again a Cleveland pitcher came through at the plate.

A day after starter Chad Ogea had two hits and drove in two runs in a 4-1 win, Wright put down a sacrifice bunt to the right side.

First baseman Darren Daulton bobbled the ball and cost himself a chance to make a play at third.

The runners were forced to stay at second and third when Omar Vizquel popped up. But Fernandez delivered them with a soft single to center field.

The Marlins had a threat in the opening inning when Renteria doubled and Gary Sheffield walked with one out.

Daulton hit a grounder to Fernandez, and the second baseman flipped to Vizquel for a force play.

Vizquel tied a Series record by stealing two bases in the fifth inning. He stole five bases in the Series and was not caught.

Cleveland 002 000 000 00—2 6 2
Florida 000 000 101 01—3 8 0
Wright, Asenmacher (7),
M.Jackson (8), Br.Anderson (8), Mesa
(9), Nagy (10) and S.Alomar, A.Leiter,
Cook (7), Antonessa (8), F.Heredia (9),
Neo (9), Powell (11) and C.Johnson,
Zam (10), W.—Powell, 1.0, L.—Nagy,
0-1, HR.—Florida, Bonilla (1).

A perfect ending for Marlins' skipper Jim Leyland

MIAMI (AP) — He was the reason it had to end exactly the way it did.

And when the World Series finally did end Sunday night, Jim Leyland lifted both hands skyward in celebration and ran to the screen behind home plate, exhorting first his family to join him, then the Marlins fans, then everyone who has ever loved the game he dedicated his lifetime to.

"I guess every little boy dreams of this," said Leyland, whose three decades in baseball have been laced with as much bitter as sweet. "But I thought it was a total fantasy for me."

Fittingly, Bobby Bonilla was the first player to embrace Leyland because it was Bonilla who was with him in Pittsburgh, where Leyland got his first big-league managing job

and came so tantalizingly close to a World Series title that you wondered how he ever got over the heartache.

For a moment, Leyland's pencil-thin frame nearly disappeared in Bonilla's muscular embrace, a scene that framed his style of running a ballclub. No manager is better loved by the guys who play for him than Leyland, and none is quite so self-effacing.

He signed his first pro contract with the Detroit organization in 1963.

He cried the day he had to release his first player — Leyland was all of 26 and managing Detroit's rookie club in Bristol, Virginia — and over 11 seasons he managed in five different towns at all different levels of the minor leagues.

Holding the trophy above his head, he said, "This is for all the minor league managers, the guys in the instructional leagues," he said. "I'm a Double-A backup, flunky catcher. So don't give up guys."

Leyland suffered losing the NL Championship Series three straight years while managing in Pittsburgh and when the cost-conscious Pirates let guys like Bonilla and Barry Bonds go, then he decided to leave, too.

In Florida was the promise that owner Wayne Huizenga's deep pockets would back him. He looked around the Marlins clubhouse in the spring, knew the talent was there and then set about melding it into a team that would breathe life into a slogan he set forth as an ideal — "25 players, one heartbeat."

Last at-bat World Series winners

Teams that won the World Series in the bottom of the last inning:

1997 Florida Marlins

Edgar Renteria's bases-loaded, two-out single off Charles Nagy in the 11th inning gives the Marlins a 3-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians in the seventh game of the Series.

1993 Toronto Blue Jays

Joe Carter's three-run homer with one out in the ninth inning off Mitch Williams rallied the Blue Jays to an 8-6 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies and a 4-2 triumph in the Series.

1991 Minnesota Twins

Pinch-hitter Gene Larkin's bases-loaded single over a drawn-in outfield gives the Twins a 10-inning, 1-0 victory over the

Atlanta Braves and a 4-3 win.

1960 Pittsburgh Pirates

Bill Mazeroski's ninth-inning homer broke a 9-all tie and gave the Pirates the championship in seven games against the New York Yankees. The Pirates five-run rally in the eighth had given them a 9-7 lead, but NY tied it with two runs in the top of the ninth.

1953 New York Yankees

Billy Martin's one-out single, his 12th hit of the Series, drove in the winning run in the ninth inning and gave the Yankees a 4-3 victory over the Brooklyn Dodgers and a 4-2 Series win.

1935 Detroit Tigers

Goose Goslin's two-out single in the ninth brought home Mickey Cochrane with the win-

ning run of a 4-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs, giving the Tigers a 4-2 Series triumph.

1929 Philadelphia Athletics

Bing Miller doubled in Al Simmons to cap a three-run rally in the ninth inning and gave the A's a 3-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs and a 4-1 Series win. Mule Haas had tied the score with a two-run homer earlier in the inning.

1927 New York Yankees

Earle Combs scored the winning run on Johnny Miljus' second wild pitch of the ninth inning, giving the Yankees a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates and a four-game Series sweep. Miljus had struck out Bob Meusel and Lou Gehrig with the bases full before the game-ending miscue.

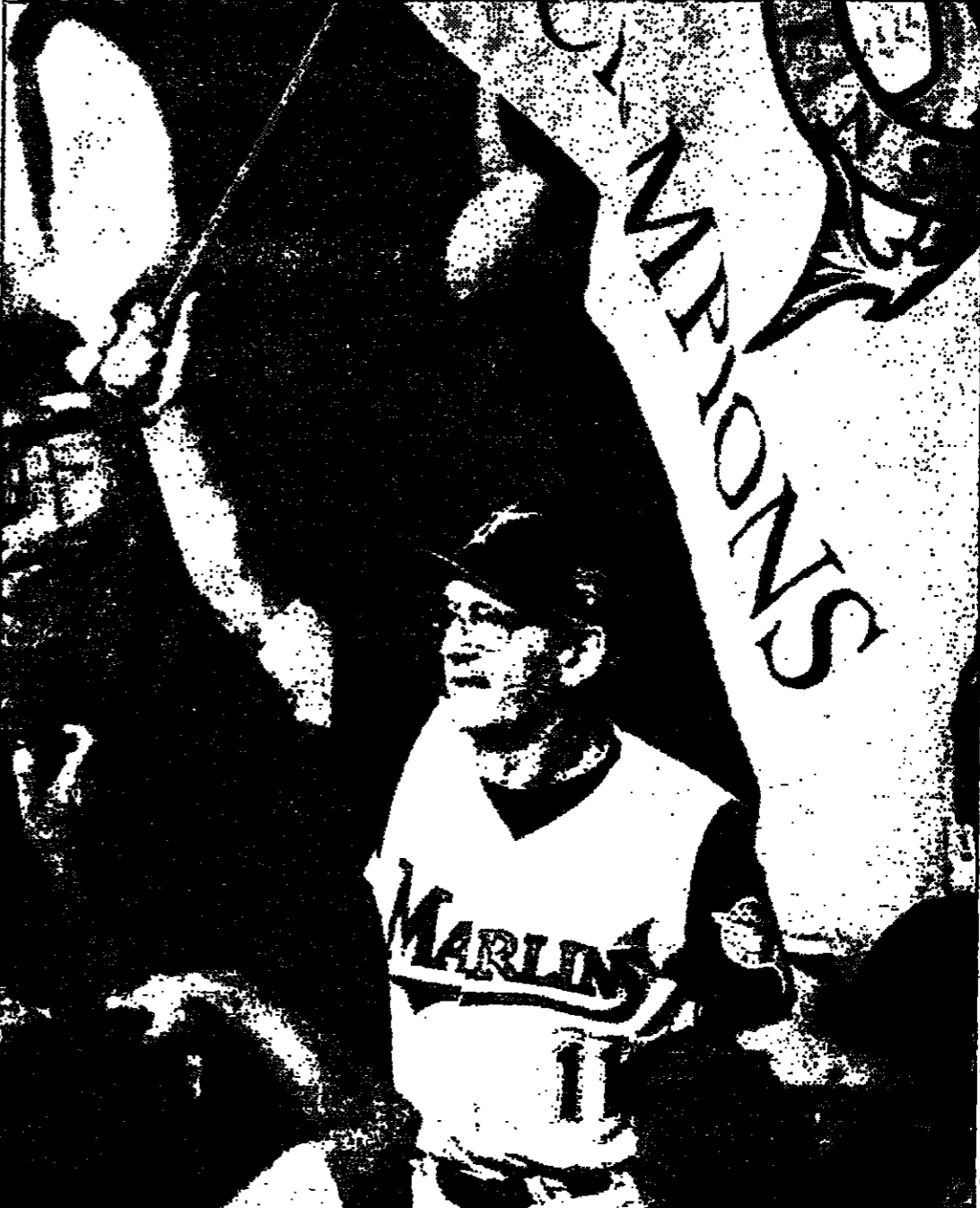
1924 Washington Senators

Earl McNeely's ground ball bounced over rookie third baseman Freddie Lindstrom's head to bring home Muddy Ruel with the winning run in the Senators' 12

inning 4-3 victory that gave them the Series 4-3 over the New York Giants.

1912 Boston Red Sox

Fred Snodgrass dropped a routine fly ball in center field, setting the stage for a two-run 10th inning rally that gave the Red Sox a 3-2 victory and a 4-3 Series triumph over the New York Giants. The Giants had gone ahead with a run in the top of the 10th, but Tris Speaker's single tied the score in the bottom of the inning and Larry Gardner's sacrifice fly ended the Series.



WHO'S THE BOSS — Marlins manager Jim Leyland carries the championship flag.

Return to Heartbreak Hotel

CLEVELAND (AP) — Nothing ever hurt this much.

This title-starved city watched in anguish as its best chance to win the World Series in nearly a half-century slipped away.

For long-suffering Indians fans — who have not seen their club win the World Series since 1948 and have witnessed four 100-loss seasons since 1971 — it was the hardest loss ever.

"I'm heartbroken," said Indians fans Ben Pyles. "We've waited 50 years for this and they lose it when they're two outs away. It's driving me nuts."

Pyles was one of about 2,000 people who braved a steady rain and bone-chilling cold to watch the game on giant TV screens outside at the Nautica entertainment complex in the Flats district, a neighborhood of

bars and restaurants.

Bars in the Flats and Gateway neighborhood near Jacobs Field were jammed throughout the marathon game that lasted into early Monday morning.

For most watching in this city of a half-million, it was an emotionally exhausting experience.

The mood was festive as the Indians entered the bottom of the ninth inning ahead 2-1. But things changed when Florida's Craig Counsell tied it.

At Pete & Dewey's, just beyond the center field fence of Jacobs Field, many in the standing room crowd put their heads in their hands. Other walked in circles, stunned in disbelief. Some cursed. At Nautica, the once rowdy crowd went completely silent. And then the tears came.

Miami paints the town teal

MIAMI (AP) — The 5-year-old Marlins bandwagon is full.

While the team's stadium was seldom full during the season, South Florida was painted in Marlins' teal Sunday night as fans celebrated the Marlins' 11th-inning come-from-behind 3-2 win over Cleveland to claim Florida's first-ever World Series.

With salsa music, frozen drinks and cigars, Marlins fans began to celebrate Sunday night.

"This is absolutely incredible," said Brook Smith, 32, of Aventura, watching from a Coconut Grove bar. "We're going to party ... tonight, all night, into the morning. We've got 50 people coming to my house, and we're going to tear it up."

In Little Havana, where the team's Latin players have a strong following, they were celebrating the win and Colombian Edgar Renteria's game-winning hit.

"The kid from Barranquilla, (Colombia) he came through, he came through," said Tony Gonzalez, watching the game at a Little Havana restaurant. "What an emotional moment. It is time to celebrate."

Fans poured into the streets of city neighborhoods within minutes of the win, and fire trucks drove up and down State Road A1A along the Atlantic Ocean in Fort Lauderdale honking their horns.

Fans lined Calle Ocho, the main street through Little Havana, and the sound of car

horns filled the air.

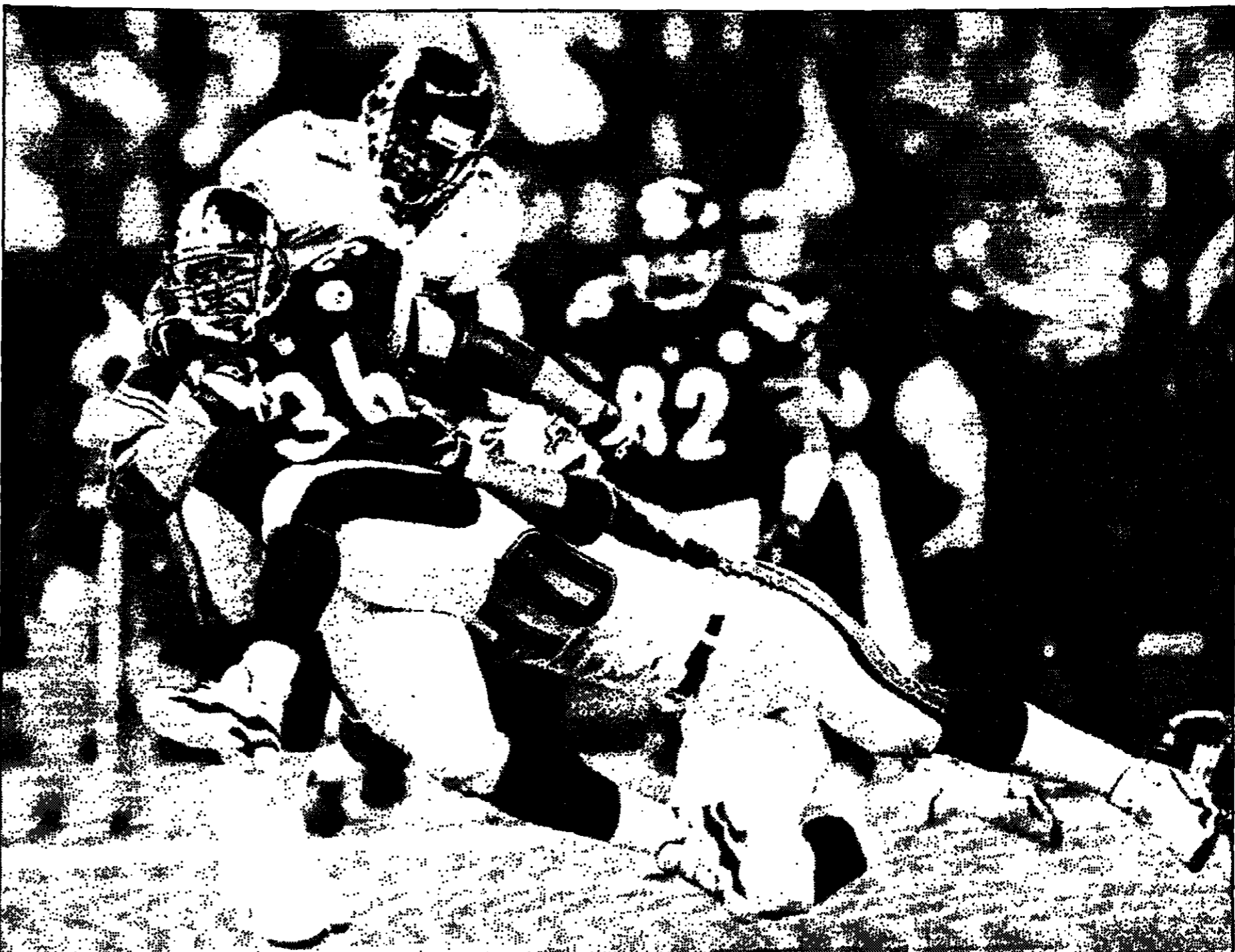
"We're going to go find (pitcher) Liván Hernandez, and we're going to smoke a big cigar," said Anthony Garcia, who was draped in an enormous teal Marlins flag. "I'm not sleeping for about three days. This is going to be a non-stop party."

At bars, patrons dumped beer on each other and broke into song.

Police were hoping celebrations didn't turn dangerous. Every available police officer that works in trendy Coconut Grove was called in to work, as bar patrons spilled out into the streets.

But Chris Petit, 21, of Miami, had no worries. "We're civilized people in Miami. It's going to be a nice atmosphere," he said.

مكتبة القدس



WHAT A DRAG - Steelers' Jerome Bettis (36) drags Jaguars' Tony Brackens into the end zone after catching a pass from Kordell Stewart, giving Pittsburgh a 23-17 win in overtime.

Broncos escape snowbound Denver to beat Bills in OT

...NEW YORK (AP) - Just getting to Buffalo was a struggle for Denver. Then the Broncos had to withstand a 20-point fourth quarter by the Bills to win 23-20 in overtime.

...Charles Evans scored on a 1-yard run and Eddie Murray kicked a 28-yard field goal as Minnesota (6-2) won for the fourth time in five games.

...Minnesota (6-2) won for the fourth time in five games. The loss was the third straight for the Bucs (5-3), who opened the season with five successive victories.

...St. Louis (2-6) in the first regular-season meeting between the teams since the Rams moved from Anaheim, California, in 1995.

Barkley arrested in barroom brawl
ORLANDO (AP) - Charles Barkley was arrested early Sunday for hurling a bar patron through a plate-glass window after the man tossed a glass of ice at him.

Vertical advertisement on the left edge of the page, partially cut off, featuring the word "Irsed" and other illegible text.

Scoreboard section containing NFL game results for teams like Dallas, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and others.

Scoreboard section containing NFL game results for teams like Baltimore, Kansas City, St. Louis, and others.

National Football League American Conference standings table.

National Football League National Conference standings table.

Michigan moves up; TCU coach Pat Sullivan moving out

NEW YORK (AP) - Michigan moved up, the Rose Bowl's closing in and Pat Sullivan is moving out as coach at Texas Christian University.

way to go to decide its Rose Bowl representative, No. 10 Washington State remained the Pac-10's lone unbeaten team with a 35-34 overtime victory over Arizona.

Washington State, at Arizona State next week, could be headed for an Apple Cup showdown against No. 7 Washington (6-1, 4-0) on Nov. 22 to decide who plays in Pasadena.

The Top 25 table listing college football teams and their records, such as Nebraska (35) and Penn State (25).

NBA team-by-team preview in tomorrow's edition
The estimate is based on statements made to the newspaper by players, former players, agents and basketball executives in more than two dozen interviews.

Schumacher vilified for race 'tactics' S. Africa win Test by 53 runs

PARIS (AP) - Michael Schumacher has been summoned to appear before an extraordinary meeting of the World Motor Sport Council, following a report from the FIA race director at the 1997 European Grand Prix. Schumacher has run into a storm of criticism after he appeared to drive his car into Villeneuve's during Sunday's Grand Prix in Jerez, Spain.

Villeneuve at Sunday's European Grand Prix. The Canadian, who survived the collision to finish the Jerez race and clinch the crown, said the former champion had "lost at his own game."

At the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide three years ago, Schumacher - then also defending a one-point lead in the championship - collided with Damon Hill's Williams and won the championship in the most acrimonious circumstances.

Even the media in Italy, desperate to see Ferrari win the title again for the first time since 1979, attacked the driver. Corriere dello Sport said: "Villeneuve, you are the legend. Schumacher, now you've got to say sorry."

FAISALABAD (AP) - Shaun Pollock's four wickets in seven deliveries earned South Africa a dramatic 53-run victory over Pakistan to clinch a soggy three-Test series yesterday.

Anwar and Ijaz Ahmed dismissed off his successive deliveries for noughts. Anwar flashed wildly to an outside off-stump delivery to give wicketkeeper Dave Richardson a regulation catch.

Obziler wins in 1st round of Marjorie Sherman Challenger

Anna Smashnova skipped last week's national championships but returned home to top the seeds for the \$25,000 Marjorie Sherman Challenger which began yesterday at Ramat Hasharon.

After the first day's action, only one local player emerged victorious. Tsippi Obziler beat fellow Merav Duek 6-0, 6-0.

Smashnova, 163 in the world rankings, and eighth seed Hila Rosen, take to the courts today.

Gretzky makes his point

NEW YORK (AP) - Wayne Gretzky of the New York Rangers became the only player in NHL history to register more assists than any other NHL player has points when he set up two goals in Sunday night's 3-3 tie against the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

Gretzky assisted on a goal by Niklas Sundstrom at 12:14 of the second period for his 1,350th career assist, equalling the overall point total of Hall-of-Famer Gordie Howe.

THE LOCAL SCENE

Ilan Oren (under 14) and Eran Levy (under 12). A few decades older is the Masters Squash Group who hold their inter-group team event this Friday. The group, which began in 1989, plays regularly on Fridays, combining training sessions and tough competitions with social weekends away.

local counterparts in the four-day Israel Amateur Open Championships at Caesarea. The monthly medal tournament was divided into four divisions. Mike Ossip took the A division with a one under par 72. Kobi Hacham was on par for second place.

Then at 32 seconds of the third period, Gretzky assisted on a goal by Ulf Samuelsson for his milestone. The crowd at Madison Square Garden chanted, "Gretzky, Gretzky," and he waved his stick and gave the fans a thumb-up sign.

Red Wings 5, Canucks 1. Kris Draper set up two goals and Detroit capitalized on two of three shots in the second period to coast to a home win.

Kedar quits Hap Jerusalem

The panic button has been pushed in the capital, as Gadi Kedar resigned from his position as coach of the Hapoel Jerusalem basketball team yesterday. The resignation came after weeks of speculation regarding Kedar's future with Hapoel.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for National Hockey League Eastern Conference, Western Conference, and Premier League Soccer. Includes team names, scores, and player statistics.

CLASSIFIEDS

Large classifieds section with multiple columns. Includes categories: DWELLINGS (Jerusalem Area, Sharon Area), SITUATIONS VACANT (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv), PURCHASE/SALES (Tel Aviv), VEHICLES (General, Jerusalem, Sharon Area), and PASSPORT. Each category contains numerous listings with details and contact information.

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3. You may upgrade from package to package, by paying the difference.
TERMS OF PUBLICATION: Advertisement must be for one car only. You may cancel ad, if you sell the car, but no refunds. Payment by cash, check or credit card.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. Includes text like "The Jerusalem Post", "GRAPEVINE", "A Body night", and "BEAUTY".

GRAPEVINE By GREER FAY CASHMAN

A Bodyguard's nightmare

For Jews, Tuesday is traditionally regarded as the most fortuitous day of the week, but for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Wednesday of last week was decidedly his lucky day. After all the flak that Netanyahu has received in recent weeks, the demonstration of support outside his home by right-wing activists obviously warmed his heart, as evidenced by the fact that he and his wife, Sara, against the better judgment of their bodyguards, went out to shake the demonstrators' hands. If that little episode had the bodyguards jittery, what ensued in the evening was a bodyguard's nightmare. The Netanyahu's, together with their older son Yair, attended Simhat Torah services at the small and overcrowded Hovevei Zion synagogue, where the PM was honored with the first round of dancing with the Torah. The bodyguards had no choice but to get into the circle, flanking the boss on all sides. Unlike their colleagues outside the building, they didn't brandish their guns. The PM subsequently stood on the bima, watching the dancing and shaking hands with numerous congregants who pushed their way through to greet him. At one time, he wanted to get back into the fray but just as he was about to move off the step, a bodyguard physically pulled him back. Sara Netanyahu, standing in the center of the women's section alongside Hadassah Neeman, wife of the finance minister, kept gesturing to the PM to pick up Yair and hoist him on his shoulders, but neither Yair nor the bodyguards were in favor of the idea. Gazing upwards, the PM held out his hands and shrugged. His wife smiled. For a brief moment, they were like any other family.

heard the musicians play. The program, which includes compositions by Mozart, Schubert and Claude Bolling, will be presented by Michael Weintraub, Elinah Shulman, Gad Lewertoff, Emanuel Gruber, Orli Zelniker, Gouen Rosenberg and Idith Zvi playing flute, violin, viola, cello, double bass, drum set and piano, respectively.

WORKING at and for Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital is a Bendheim family tradition. The late New York philanthropist Charles Bendheim, who died earlier this year at the age of 80, chaired the hospital's international board for many years and used to visit the wards regularly. His daughter, Judy Guedalia, is a veteran social worker in the hospital's emergency room. Miriam Eisenberg, the 18-year-old daughter of Charles Bendheim's daughter Debbie Eisenberg and her husband, Barry, is currently doing her national service at the hospital. Her initiation into the job was horrendous: the triple terrorist bombing in Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda mall. Now Jack Bendheim, another of Charles's offspring, serves as chairman of the hospital board.

Miriam spoke about her grandfather at last week's gala dinner for Shaare Zedek at the King David Hotel. Proceeds from the event will help improve the facilities of the emergency room. Hospital director-general Prof. Jonathan Halevy announced that the ninth-floor mother-and-child center now under construction will be named for Charles Bendheim. The event also honored Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, the longtime leader of the National Religious Party and its predecessor, Hapoel Hamizrachi. Warhaftig, who helped rescue 6,000 Holocaust survivors from Germany and took them to China and Japan and initiated the founding of Yeshivat Kerem Be'Yavne, was one of the signatories in 1948 of Israel's declaration of independence.

WHETHER Egyptian ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny attempted to engage in navel exercises with a Ramat Gan belly dancer who filed a sexual assault charge against him, will remain a matter of conjecture. Conflicting media reports will keep the gossip mongers guessing, but what will emerge from the messy and diplomatically embarrassing business is a fresh surge of affection for the ambassador's exceedingly popular wife. Throughout the two-month ordeal during which the matter was under investigation, the Bassiounys kept a high social profile, but Nagwa Bassiouny appeared to be more supportive of her husband than usual. Although the two frequently float off in different directions at social events, she has spent much more time at his side, often with her arm linked through his. Sometimes she's taken him away from the crowd to talk to him earnestly for a few moments before being swept into another round of bright smiles, handshakes, embraces and kisses past both cheeks. Her conduct has not gone unnoticed and has earned her high marks in her ever-widening circle of friends.



Nagwa Bassiouny stands by her man.

BECAUSE Hovevei Zion is an Orthodox congregation, there were no press photographers on hand. In fact, judging by the coverage in all the major dailies, the press photographers had converged on the Beit Daniel Reform Synagogue in Tel Aviv, where inter alia they caught Canadian ambassador David Berger weaseling in smiles and dancing with the Torah. His mood was nowhere near as bright two weeks earlier when Canada and Israel were at odds over the use of forged Canadian passports by Mossad agents operating in Jordan.

EACH of the hundreds of people who turned up at Meor Modi'in for the second annual Spirit of Shlomo Carlebach music festival and arts and crafts fair was welcome, but none more so than Noam Rozenman, one of the teenagers seriously injured in last month's terrorist attack on Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda mall. Personal friends and devoted fans of the late singing rabbi, the Rozenmans arranged a brief therapeutic furlough from Hadassah for Noam, who was taken to the festival by his father, Zvi. Carlebach's music has been an important factor in Noam's recovery process, and as soon as he regained the use of his fingers, he began strumming Carlebach tunes on his guitar. The Carlebach festival was an added contribution to Noam's welfare. He was transferred on the eve of Simhat Torah to the hospital's outpatient department. Also present at the festival, which happened to fall on Carlebach's birthday, was his younger daughter Dori, a budding photographer now studying at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

THE ISRAEL Chamber Orchestra will enhance the harmony of the buffet dinner which Swiss Ambassador Pierre Monod and his wife, Ninette, are hosting at their home at the end of the month. The guest list is made up largely of members of the diplomatic corps, most of whom are already familiar with the ICO. The Monods, who are avid fans, hope to introduce the ICO to those of their colleagues who have not yet

HUNGARIAN ambassador Istvan Csejtei and his wife, Idiko, invited so many hundreds of people to their Herzliya Pituh home to celebrate Hungarian National Day commemorating the 41st anniversary of the 1956 revolution that they had to have two sessions to accommodate all their guests. While they occasionally ran out of space, there was no shortage of food and drink.



Whoopi Goldberg's life is now an open book. (J.P.P.)

FREQUENTLY stumped to remember the title of a book she's looking for, Whoopi Goldberg decided to make life easy for anyone checking the book stores for a copy of her newly released autobiography. She called it Book. Now that's an easy one to remember. Then again, maybe not. It's so obvious, it may prove to be elusive.



In the Navy, boot camp is not as bad as it used to be. (Debbi Cooper)

Boot camp lite

By PAUL RICHTER

Recruits who stepped out of line at the Navy's boot camp at the Great Lakes naval base in Illinois, used to find the reaction swift and rough: a good tongue-lashing from the instructor, lots and lots of push-ups and occasionally a special humiliation, such as a lap around the base with a pair of underpants flapping from their heads. But that's not what Travis Bullard found when the Navy recently decided he needed some extra motivation. He was packed off to a "personal applied skills" class, where he was offered emotional support, instructed on deep breathing and stress reduction and given a chance to explore his feelings by pasting cut-out magazine photos on a piece of cardboard.

These instructors, it turns out they're really nice guys," says Bullard, a gentle, gangling 20-year-old from tiny Hackett, Ark. Welcome to the boot camp of the 1990s. As memories of Cold War foes and foxholes fade, the military is stripping away the sharp edges and hard knooks from this fabled test of manhood.

Profanity, rough handling and embarrassment of recruits are strictly forbidden; confidence-building, teamwork and mutual support are the order of the day. Marches with heavy packs and hand-to-hand combat training are giving way to instruction on personal values, rape prevention and technical training. No longer do instructors follow the time-honored doctrine of using fear and intimidation to break down recruits and rebuild them to provide unquestioning obedience. Now, as Army regulations put it, the goal is to honor "the dignity and respect of the individual." Troops are encouraged to question authority - up to a point, anyway - in keeping with a philosophy that may owe as much to corporate employee-training guides as to the Napoleonic field manual.

The Pentagon believes the new approach is the best way to turn a balky, rarely spanked generation into volunteer "warrior technicians" who may well need to know more about complex electronic equipment than foxhole survival. The military brass insists that boot camp is just as challenging as ever, but in different ways. Physical demands may be lighter, but mental requirements are far greater. Recruits are taught how to think and solve problems, and how to deal with the emotional problems that in the past drove recruits away, or in rare cases - to suicide.

The physical demands have been changed, military leaders say, to avoid injuries, and because the military's physiologists believe that too much workout in the relatively brief span of a boot camp will punish their bodies without really making them stronger. Officers point out, too, that boot camp is only the first step in the troops' training, and is followed by more advanced instruction in physical and technical skills. But critics - including some senior officers, old-school non-commissioned officers and even some of the recruits themselves - wonder if "boot camp lite" is preparing the troops for the ugly, old-style combat that still may spoil the nation's end-of-century idyll.

Some critics believe a major reason for the change is a desire to attract and keep more women - an assertion the brass denies. And some traditionalists see the revisions as part of a broader and dangerous drift toward a more comfy, "civilianized" military culture at a moment when the armed forces don't face the imminent threat of war, but are under pressure to attract and keep volunteers. "The training ought to be tough, so if we send kids to Bosnia they can take anything," says Staff Sgt.

Daniel Jackson, a drill instructor at Fort Knox, Ky., home of the Army's armored forces. "I'm not sure all the kids I send to graduation should be crossing that stage." The issue has stirred enough debate that a congressional panel is looking into it. Even the Army's house organ, Soldiers magazine, recently asked: "Has basic training gone soft?" Not long ago, the recruit asking why he had been ordered to perform some task would be told, fortissimo: "Because I said so!" Now instructors are to explain the rationale behind each order, so recruits learn to think and understand and carry on willingly. "They've always got a question," sighs Chief Petty Officer 1st

Profanity, rough handling and embarrassment of recruits are strictly forbidden; confidence-building, teamwork and mutual support are the order of the day.

Class Garry McClure. "Whatever it is, they want to discuss it and discuss it some more." Not surprisingly, some drill instructors are chafing. "The DIs feel almost handcuffed, like they can't do anything," says Command Sgt. Maj. William H. Brooks Jr., who oversees dozens of drill instructors at Fort Knox.

Great Lakes' boot camp commander, Capt. Cory D. Whitehead, sent 31 instructors packing last year because she didn't think they were properly adjusting to the new order. Now officers at the boot camp roam the base watching for DIs' infractions. To curtail possible mistreatment or sexual harassment - a major problem in the military today - drill instructors work in glass-windowed offices so their behavior can be observed. The DI of the '90s serves as counselor as much as disciplinarian - talking to recruits about military issues, careers and matters of the heart. Navy boot camp instructors say they spend hours each day dispensing advice to the curious, confused, homesick and lovelorn.

The Navy used to frighten recruits on arrival day with bold-lettered signs threatening that they could be jailed for up to five years, and fined up to \$10,000, if they didn't disclose past behavior that might disqualify them for service. The signs are gone.

Now, the Navy and the Air Force give recruits a special "Recruit Bill of Rights" card assuring them of the organization's concern for their well-being, and telling them who to complain to if they feel they've been a target of sexual harassment, discrimination or other mistreatment.

In the Navy, trainees who can't follow orders, control their temper or get along with people of different gender or race are sent to the one-week "personal applied skills" program. The course, developed by a corporate consultant, has handled about 600 recruits since it began a year ago, and 99 percent of them were funneled back to finish boot camp. The physical demands at those camps also are not what they used to be. Uncomfortable combat boots and stiff uniforms have given way to athletic shoes and light cotton sweat clothes. At Fort Knox, recruits once marched in formation from spot to spot, but now pile on buses to be carried between training locations. Hand-to-hand combat training has been scaled back to a single four-hour class where soldiers sim-

ulate martial-arts moves, rather than land blows that might injure them. At Navy boot camps, the grinding regimen of marching, push-ups and rifle drills is gone. The heavy rifles were packed away last year, marching has been cut to four miles a day, and the workout routine is three half-hour outings each week. Recruits spend more than 40 hours some weeks in lecture-hall settings, and many more hours in hands-on training in such areas as firefighting and basic nautical skills. If this makes them less rugged than their predecessors, the leadership says that the challenges they will face are far different from those of recruits in years past.

On the older generation of Navy destroyers, 40 percent of the crew was devoted to grinding labor. They needed to be obedient and brawny, but their jobs didn't require a lot of initiative. On the latest ships only about 10 percent carry out this kind of labor, while the remainder have assigned more mentally demanding tasks. Training officials point out, too, that boot camp is not the end, but the beginning, of the recruit's military education. Troops get a lot more technical training in advanced courses, and those who are likely to go into combat are prepared with instruction to sharpen their fighting skill and endurance.

Some members of Congress have been registering concerns about the new boot camp. Rep. Stephen E. Buyer, R-Ind., chairman of the House National Security Committee's personnel subcommittee, has pushed Congress to investigate the question more closely after a tour of training centers this year in which he found a "loss of warrior spirit and esprit" that was disappointing to him. Military officials say there's been no higher post-training washout rate or other indication that boot camp hasn't prepared recruits properly. But some critics say the shortcomings might not be apparent until a later, critical moment. "I would trust my life to people who were trained the old way," said Chief Petty Officer Brinley Billings, a Great Lakes instructor. "But we won't know how the new system works for years, until these kids are out in the fleet." (Los Angeles Times)

From spree to shining spree

Leave it to El Al to come up with the most Israeli of vacations. This autumn, they devised a trip that eliminates all those pesky, unnecessary elements of international travel and allow you to get right to the point. I mean, how many times have you gone to London and asked yourself, Do I really have to wander around this city and look at all those boring old art and history museums? After all, we've got lots of old stuff in Israel.

Plenty of pretty pictures, too. This I could do at home. Castles? Well, I can always go check out the big mansions in Savoyon or Kfar Shmaryatin. Almost the same thing. And the women in these ritzy neighborhoods tend to wear so much jewelry, there's no reason to sleep to the Tower of London to see the crown jewels, either.

Theater is all well and good, but after all, in London, you gotta watch it in English. Why not just wait for Habimah or the Cameri to come out with the same production in Hebrew, or see it at Gesher with a Russian accent? As for dining, well, we've got McDonald's in Israel now, so there's no reason to fly to London anymore to eat a hamburger. And let's face it, British cuisine is nothing to write home about anyway. Fish and chips? Yorkshire pudding? Giving it up is no big sacrifice.

shot at the starting gate: the beginning of a breathless marathon up and down the aisles of Marks and Spencer and Harrods, buying the stores up - with no time to eat or rest until the shops close at 6.

According to the woman who took the trip, the group tends to stick close to one another in the stores. Why? "Well, there's a lot of competition. People like to look at what everybody else is buying and see who got the best bargain." One has to pity the poor sales clerks.

Then, afterwards, no leisurely dinner, no show, no relaxing in the hotel, no people-watching in Leicester Square.

What would be the point? You've got your huge sack of acquisitions, you want to get them home as quickly as possible, right? So you grab a quick bite to eat, if you're lucky, and then head back to the airport to catch a midnight flight to the Holy Land, dragging your bag with you.

Then you are back at Ben-Gurion airport, where the customs agents are just waiting for you, rubbing their hands with anticipation.

Would I go on such a trip? I don't know. The whole thing sounds like an exercise in exhaustion to me. If I rose at the hour required to catch a 6 a.m. flight, I would probably be found sound asleep in the dressing room of one of the Oxford Street department stores. Some

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

El Al flies you out of Ben-Gurion Airport at the crack of dawn, gives you a huge shopping bag as you step off the plane, and delivers you - plunk - in the middle of Oxford Street ready to start spending money by 8 a.m.

So, realizing that none of the above was particularly important to the Israeli traveler, El Al booted a typical Israeli visit to London down to its most basic element: a frenzied one-day shopping orgy. It reminds me of a TV show in the United States where they put contestants in a grocery store and gave them exactly two minutes to run through the store, stuffing as many products as possible into their shopping cart.

El Al flies you out of Ben-Gurion Airport at the crack of dawn, gives you a huge shopping bag as you step off the plane, and delivers you - plunk - in the middle of Oxford Street ready to start spending money by 8 a.m.

Now, as one woman who took the trip said, most stores don't open until nine or ten, so for the first hour one looks like a homeless person, wandering aimlessly around the street dragging a suitcase. The opening of the stores must be like a

poor El Al employee would have to put me in a shopping bag and haul me back to the plane.

And nine hours of shopping? My feet start to ache after just two or three - and that's after I've had a full night's sleep. But for inveterate shoppers, particularly those who have very little vacation time, it's really not such a bad idea. Probably, if one shopped correctly, one could save enough money to justify the \$330 airfare.

Now you could argue that it would take a lot less time and hassle to simply pay more money for various products and buy them here in Israel. But then when someone complimented you on your outfit, you couldn't casually respond with, "Oh, this thing? I picked it up in London last week. It caught my eye on Oxford Street and I just had to have it."

After all, isn't the ability to make that kind of remark what travel is all about?

Long-distance love meets reality

Dear Ruthie. My Israeli boyfriend and I have been involved in a long-distance relationship for the past three years. We met while he was on a trip to the US, and we have been writing to each other, talking on the phone and visiting one another since then regularly. I finally decided to come to Israel for a year to see whether we are really compatible. I took a leave of absence from my job, and moved to Eilat, where my boyfriend runs a business. I have been here for about three months now, and things are not going as well as I'd expected. Not knowing the language, I have not been able to find proper employment. My boyfriend is very busy with his work. I find myself extremely bored, and basically living in a peculiar state of limbo. I have left everything behind, and yet I don't seem to have anything here - except for him - to keep me occupied or interested. My boyfriend wants us to get married as soon as I make up my mind. But I don't know how to do this. I love him, but I am not at all sure that I can live this way. He says that once we start having children, I will have something important to occupy myself with. But I have always been an independent woman, and this doesn't sound inviting. I mean, I want to have children, but I don't want them to be my sole reason for getting up in the morning. On the other hand, I know that if I return home, I will miss him terribly, as I have for all of these years. What can I do? In Love and at a Loss Dear Eilat at a Loss. While having children may alleviate your sense of being unsettled somewhat, it is not likely to cure your

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

boredom. On the contrary, caring for a baby all day can give even the most self-sufficient mother the sense that she is alone on the planet. Nor will it contribute to your learning the language - at least not until your children are school age.

If you do not wish to forfeit the love you share with your boyfriend, you have two choices: either convince him to return with you to the US, or make a decision to throw yourself into the society in which you now find yourself. Convincing your friend to leave his natural habitat, however, may lead to problems for him similar to those which you are currently experiencing, in spite of the slight advantage he may have of reading and writing in English. Immersing yourself into Israeli culture can be done in a number of ways. First, you can enroll in Hebrew classes, and consider this your "job" for the time being. This would at least give you a sense of purpose, and contribute to your ability to communicate with non-English speakers. It will also prepare you for any employment you later seek. Above all, it will give you time to live in the company of your boyfriend on a daily basis, so you can find out if marrying him is what you really want. Perhaps you will discover that your romance was only good when it was conducted long-distance. Or, conversely, maybe you will find yourself ready and willing to tie the proverbial knot.

Keep in mind that either discovery on your part will be beneficial with regard to making a decision based on something other than gut feelings. Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

Acre: Parting from the fringe

By HELEN KAYE

Except for the rain, nothing unseemly happened at the Acre Theater Festival this year. Even Ehud Barak's presence at one of the plays caused no more than a little flutter. It was all as genteel as a tea party.

That was the trouble. Acre is supposed to go out on that limb, or try to. That's why Oded Kotler established the festival 18 years ago. It's full name is the Festival of Alternative Theater; alternative as in different, explorative, in-your-face politically and theatrically. This year there wasn't even a murmur of politics, a whisper of controversy.

Acre was also conceived as a showcase for young talent. The competition prizes this year all went to established stars and although there is a young talent framework (The Hamamma), it's not very different from the veterans.

Cohen's trenchant IDF-based drama about the dangers of myth makes no attempt at gloss.

Yosef Carmon is a fine actor, but as a director he has a lot to learn. He directed *POW* (Shavui) by Yossi Hadar, forgetting that to act means to do. The trouble with acting emotions is that immediacy gets lost and the audience becomes a voyeur at best.

The play, a poor Pirandello forgery, tells the same story of a POW's disappearance into and return from a Syrian prison, from two couples' point of view. The play whines and so do the actors, giving such self-indulgent performances that one actor actually cried.

Another poor play was *Artan* which, nonetheless, won Best Play for its author, Daniella Carmi. Poor, because although, like a Chekhov play, *Artan* is built on a series of changing circumstances; unlike Chekhov, it has no



Ofra Levy's 'Tales of Tonglan' explores the human soul. (Koko)

The shows at Acre were designed to be experienced in the extraordinary spaces of the Crusader castle. Today it's the rare show that doesn't have LBA (Life Beyond Acre), and you'll be able to see most of them at the Fringe Center in Tel Aviv or at the repertory theaters.

The one show that at least shined up the trunk toward the limb was choreographer Ofra Levy's *Tales of Tonglan*, which won honorable mention in the Best Production category. Hers is a straight dance-theater piece, spare, poetic and demanding. It uses two actors, four models and Levy herself to inquire into the nature of mercy, to show the frailty of the fleshly envelope and the soul inside it.

The Best Production winner at the festival was *The Alley of White Chairs* by Gabi Eldor and Igal Ezrati, who have worked together for many years. Like the house in Gilles Maheu's *Dead Souls* at this year's Israel Festival, the Jaffa "alleyway" was the backdrop for interlocking stories, a Romeo-and-Juliet love story between two feuding families, the return from Jordan of an Arab who had fled the house in '48 and so on. But whereas Maheu's house was a character in the lives of its itinerant dwellers, Eldor and Ezrati turn their alleyway into merely a venue, which is a pity.

White Chairs is more than just a story. It's a metaphor for Arab-Jewish and Jewish-Jewish relations. It is no coincidence that the fruited orange tree central to the set hangs upside down. The show is wonderful theater with passionate performances and striking visual and aural effects, especially the reiterated, rhythmic shaking of flat trays of rice.

"I mostly cut," said Best Director Zaharia Harifa'i of her work on *Fragments* (Resissim). Sensibly she lets the text do the work, and the actors concentrate on bringing it to the audience without much explanation. The death of a child is idiotic, whether as a hero in action or from a self-inflicted wound, and Ephraim

internal logic to bind it.

The play features the ebb and flow of interdependencies between two women, both former patients, locked in the storeroom of a mental institution for the night. However, *Artan* is saved by Revital Eytan's well-paced and intelligent direction, by good acting from Regine Shushan-Tchida, and superb characterization from Best Actress Ofra Weingarten.

Among the young artists in the Hamamma (Hothouse) section, there is an exciting find called Oren Lavi, the writer, composer and director of *Spokes in the Wheel*, a musical about the emotional growth of a young paraplegic that won its creator Best Production, as did a cheeky satire on self-fulfilling prophecy (or what bred Rabin's murder), called *Stepan* by its writer and director Roni Sinai.

Katarina, by and starring Idit Zur, based on the novel of that name by Aharon Appelfeld, would have worked better had Zur and director Gideon Shemer understood that the conflict is one of faith, both Christian and Jewish. *Lallo*, a tacky sex farce by Esteban Gottfried, despite some marvelous performances, doesn't even belong in Acre.

And yet, accidentally I'm sure, the Acre plays, almost all of which dealt directly or indirectly with death and/or the media, seemed to indicate their creators' deep disillusionment with the present, the pain of betrayals, and even fear that the old Israeli mantra "Yihye beseder" ("it'll be all right") won't work any more.

Perhaps that's why artistic director Itzik Weingarten, who won't head the festival next year, was so pleased with it.

The other major winners were: Best Actor, Shraga Harpaz (*Fragments*); David Kigler (*Lallo*), set design; Lily Ben-Nahshon (*Katarina*), lighting; Phyllis Ross (*POW*), costume; Rakefet Levy (*Story of Tonglan*), music; Samar Azar, Yuval Messner, Shosh Reisman (*Alley of White Chairs*).

IN TUNE

Sex, 'Rope' and rock & roll

By DAVID BRINN

There hasn't been anybody since Prince who makes R&B as sizzlingly sensual as Janet Jackson on *The Velvet Rope*.

Ostensibly a self-help encounter weekend set to music, *The Velvet Rope* is a metaphor for the internal barriers people erect to hide their true selves. Jackson's message seems to be "free your body and your mind will follow."

She transmits this message in a two-pronged attack: an almost nonstop barrage of groove-laden dance music that defies listeners to stay seated, and a healthy fixation with sex.

At least half of the songs on this sprawling 77-minute tour de force deal with matters of pleasure, ranging from playful masturbatory interludes to more serious rope-tying fantasies.

But what could be reduced to sleazy *Penthouse* material is rescued by Jackson and collaborators Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis's unadulterated pop vision.

They achieve the nearly impossible task of making Joni Mitchell sound soulful by sampling "Big Yellow Taxi" on the rap-and-roll single "Got 'Til It's Done." Elsewhere, Jackson enters Alanis

THE VELVET ROPE

Janet Jackson (Helicon)

HOMOGENIC

Bjork (Helicon)

PORTISHEAD

Portishead (Helicon)

Morrissette territory for the scalding tirade against a cheating lover on "What About." The anti-homophobic scorch "Free Xone" is the standout dance track, replete with perfectly placed samples of Archie Bell & The Drell's classic "Tighten Up."

There are plenty of G-rated songs, where Jackson attempts an emotional catharsis but only manages to come up with lines like "We all have the need to feel special."

The pop ballads, while head and shoulders above Whitney and Mariah, often sound sweet and sappy next to the sass Jackson generates on the steamier tracks.

It's evident from *The Velvet Rope* that when it comes to late 1990s mastery of dance music that makes you think, Janet is the Jackson who sets the standard.

BJORK is one artist who deserves the label "alternative." Utilizing a virtual kitchen sink of effects like a foghorn and a martial military beat, the one-time singer for The Sugarcubes proves on her third



'Free your body and your mind will follow' seems to be Janet Jackson's message.

solo album, *Homogenic*, that she marches to her own drum.

Dark, dense and swirling, Bjork's songs neither begin nor end.

They just emerge from the foggy shadows and retreat from whence they came.

She sings the tunes in her bell-like voice like she's reading a poem on a smoke-filled beatnik club stage, exaggerating words and accentuating the unexpected.

Her knack is making the inaccessible accessible. Most of the songs lack traditional pop struc-

ture, instead relying on a combination of free-form jazz influences and electronic blips which lend a fitting austerity to Bjork's minimalist and often humorous lyrics.

Inspirational line - "I thought I could organize freedom. How Scandinavian of me."

TURN the drum machine on slow, take a valium and watch James Bond in *Goldfinger* for musical inspiration. That seems to be the recipe for Portishead's self-titled second album.

Following a highly acclaimed debut *Dummy* in 1994, which set the tone for much of today's trip-hop, this follow-up reveals a one-song band mired in claustrophobia.

The same syncopated beat, the same bored, detached vocals of Beth Gibbons which sound like they're funneled through a megaphone, and the same '60s spy-film orientation make listening to Portishead an exercise in endurance.

Even 007 would have taken his hidden cyanide pill.

West End's regards from Broadway

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Phantom of the Opera, *Miss Saigon*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Cats*, *Chess*, *Oliver*, *My Fair Lady*. The names themselves can send shivers down the spine of anyone who is infatuated with the genre of the Broadway and (London) West End musical. But Israelis who enjoy the marvels of the musical usually have to travel abroad to see full-fledged musicals on the stage. Here in Israel, many musicals have been presented in recent years, but spectacular productions of American and British musicals have yet to reach us.

For those willing to enjoy a first-rate substitute, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra offers West End: The Concert, a scintillating evening of the greatest hits of the musicals, performed by four singing actors who grace the stages of the West End on a regular basis.

West End: The Concert is not just the name of the upcoming ISO evening, it is also the name of the company inaugurated three years ago by producer Gary Brown and conductor Martin Yates. The first performance of West End: The Concert took place with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and since then they have performed with orchestras all over Europe, as well as recording an exciting disc on the TER label, with Volume 2 coming out shortly.

The idea of West End: The Concert is simple and effective. Yates brings with him four singers (two males and two females), and together they revel in presenting an evening of musical show hits.



Kim Criswell is a veteran of West End: The Concert, which was inaugurated by Martin Yates.



rely on the world of the musical sounds very promising. After all, it is a genre enjoyed by many who do not frequent the concert hall that often. At the same time, there is much in common between the musical and the opera, whether fans of either genre are aware of it or not.

The upcoming concert is an attempt to find out more about the wonderful world of the musical and to realize that it is one of the greatest forms of entertainment. In effect, it is the opera of our time. After all, today's leading opera stars sing selections from musicals on a regular basis, if not on stage then at least on disc.

And today's musicals are usually sung through, as if they were operas. These musicals are often based on the operas of the past

and use a form of operatic language, albeit clad in a more popular music style. *Les Miserables* and *The Phantom of the Opera*, for example, are two of the most popular operas of the day.

Like all forms of entertainment in the MTV age, the musical is also searching for its identity. At times this search is more successful than at others, but on the whole there is no doubt that the musicals of today are operatic in scope and style and require performers who are versatile in acting, dancing, and singing in both classical and popular modes.

West End: The Concert is presented tomorrow at the Sherover Theater in Jerusalem and on Thursday at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Serene Mozart, powerful Mahler

In a long but fulfilling evening of music-making, the IPO played superbly under the baton of Zubin Mehta. But Mahler's Ninth Symphony can maintain an entire program and should not be coupled with another piece.

Solo violinist Midori's rendition of Mozart's Third Violin Concerto was captivating. Hers was a

Israel Philharmonic plays Mozart and Mahler, Maan Auditorium, Tel Aviv, October 20

serene, yet lyrically sad reading. Midori showed grace, depth, sensitivity and sincerity in her playing, particularly in the middle (slow) movement.

Many tend to play Mozart in a vivacious, even lighthearted manner. But Midori opted for a pure, warm and poetic interpretation. This was Mozart at its captivating best.

An impressive reading of Mahler's last completed symphony, showcased the IPO's first-rate strings. In Mehta's reading the enormous power of the music came through in a most exciting and revealing way.

Michael Ajzenstadt

THE programming of this year's Abu Ghosh Festival was most intriguing. But two of the festival's concerts suggested that the program alone is not a guarantee of a success. In separate performances, the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra accompanied two local choirs in two major, though seldom performed, choral works. But while the performance of the Cherubini Requiem was magical, that of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* was so bad it was annoying. Both concerts were played in front of a church packed with enthusiastic music lovers who never ceased to applaud. Both featured the same orchestra but the difference was in the conductor and the choir he brought with him.

Michael Shani led his Tel Aviv Chamber Choir in a penetrating and riveting rendition of the Cherubini C minor Requiem. He managed to create the right balance between orchestra and choir, and under his direction the choir projected with ease and charm one of

Cherubini and Puccini at the Abu Ghosh Festival, October 23, 24

the gems of the choral repertoire. The performance showcased the choir at its best: a cohesive ensemble which is versatile enough to sing a large varied repertoire in a most attractive manner. And under Shani the orchestra presented a more than adequate reading of the score. In short it was a glorious concert of choral music.

But when Yuval Ben-Ozer mounted the podium to perform Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* with the Philharmonia Singers, all was amiss. This beautiful gem by a young Puccini was presented in a harsh, obtrusive reading that showed total disrespect for the music and a lack of understanding of its style. Ben-Ozer controlled neither orchestra nor chorus. The orchestra, which had sounded near perfect under Shani, here was so bad it was embarrassing; the choir was out of balance and out of tune.

Michael Ajzenstadt

"*DIE Schöne Müllerin*" by Schubert is a simple story of yearning, hope, brief happiness and rejected love. It flows and rushes like a stream, along which it all happens. It is the stream, the merry and knowing companion, which leads a young boy to a beautiful miller-maid; it is the stream, to which he confides his feelings, and which gives him last refuge when he commits suicide.

Wolfgang Holzmair has a fine baritone, his articulation is clear, the phrasing natural and the performance, on the whole, meticulously polished. His singing has vastly improved in the last two years since his appearance at the Israel Festival.

But Holzmair's musicianship is so introverted, his artistry is so reserved that he almost never allows himself an outburst of emotions. What a pity. Holzmair's *Müllerin* was a peaceful creek, rather than a lively brook, reflecting the everchanging mood of the 20 little gems of Schubert's song cycle.

Imogen Cooper at the piano produced a tender support for the soloist; her playing suited Holzmair's style to perfection. But neither presented the audience with the sparkle for which it longed so much.

Maxim Reider

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK WEEK CHARTS			
#	WEEK	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	5	EYAL GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU
#2	4	SHABAK SAMECH	B'ATIFA SHEL MAMTAK
#3	4	GIDI GON	SHIRIM SHEL...
#4	2	SHLOMO ARTZI	LIVE
#5	7	BACKSTREET BOYS	BACKSTREET'S BACK
#6	6	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	KOL MA SHETRITZI
#7	3	EVYATAR BANAI	EVYATAR BANAI
#8	9	YEHUDA POLKER	LIVE
#9	11	THE VERVE	URBAN HYMNS
#10	15	TEA PACKS	NESHUKA LA DOD
#11	20	ARIK EINSTEIN	LE'AN PARHU...
#12	13	V/A	VOLUME 13
#13	RE	COST	ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA...
#14	RE	MATI CASPI	LIVE
#15	RE	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

מקדמים לתשלום

Knesset opens with raucous session

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset opened yesterday in a carnival atmosphere, despite calls by Speaker Dan Tichon to preserve decorum and words from both sides on the need to unite.

The opening of the winter session - after a more than three-month recess - was held in the presence of President Ezer Weizman and State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat. The government turned the vote on the prime minister's policy statement into a motion of confidence, to counter the calls by Meretz and Labor for a motion of no-confidence. The motion passed 44 to 36.

The Knesset also voted on a series of concluding statements by faction heads. Haim Ramon

(Labor) later ridiculed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the ministers for blindly supporting the statement by Moleket leader Rehavam Ze'evi, which was voted down, which included motions to stop the Oslo process and remove the PLO. Netanyahu and several ministers also supported the concluding statement by the Third Way, which included a clause calling for a national unity government.

Even before Netanyahu took the podium, Haggai Merom (Labor) took the microphone on the floor to call on him to apologize for his statement that the "Left has forgotten what it is to be a Jew."

As Netanyahu started his speech, Labor MKs rose bearing placards saying: "Bibi is dividing

the people." and "I'm a proud Jew."

Netanyahu said he was "sorry for the twisted interpretation being given my words" and that he had not meant to question anybody's Jewishness.

Netanyahu called for a "political cease-fire" and said the country should look at the achievements of the past 50 years and to unite together with Diaspora Jewry.

He was constantly heckled and on several occasions accused of incitement.

In between the catcalls, Netanyahu tried to explain his government's policy. He said the Palestinian Authority is still not fulfilling its obligations to fight terror and is using the "revolving door" system of arresting and

releasing terror suspects; allowing Hamas institutions to reopen; refusing to extradite wanted terrorists; and not canceling the Palestinian Covenant.

He called on the coalition to recognize the fact of the Oslo Accords, but stressed that peace depends on the final arrangements. "Anyone who is not interested in a fast track to the permanent arrangements is testifying that he is not interested in true peace but only in getting land and rights to serve as a tool to continue the struggle against us and present us with new demands," Netanyahu said. He added that Israel will not agree to a Palestinian state.

He said Israel wants peace "with those who recognize our need to

live in this land... not a fictitious peace. We won't come and say: 'Take what you want.'

"Regarding Syria and Lebanon, we are interested in reaching a peace treaty based on true security arrangements. This means Syria will not be able to preserve its right to attack Israel under conditions of peace. The North and its water sources must be free of the threat of a surprise attack."

He said the country had inherited a serious budget deficit, but foreign investments are flowing in.

He ended his speech with a plea to the Reform and Conservative Jews "not to ignore the chance for this historic opportunity" to formulate a compromise on the religious issues.

In his speech, Barak stressed his

military past and accused Netanyahu of leading the country to war. Much of his speech was a personal attack on the prime minister. Science Minister Michael Elitzan; Health Minister Yehoshua Matza; and Uzi Landau, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, mildly heckled him.

He described the change in government as "a political accident," albeit a democratic one. "The State of Israel deserves a different prime minister - more experienced, more responsible, more serious, and older," he said.

He said there are two options: to lead the country to peace and security or to be drawn into another war. Barak also accused Netanyahu of incitement and divisiveness.

PA arrests journalist after torture report

By STEVE RODAN

A Hebron-area journalist and human rights activist has been arrested by Palestinian Authority security agents, following publication of his story that quotes Hamas detainees describing the torture they sustained in Palestinian jails.

Khaled Amayreh, 41, of Duza, was arrested on Sunday by the PA Preventive Security Service, headed by Col. Jibril Rajoub. Amayreh is regarded as one of the few independent Palestinian journalists still working in the West Bank and Gaza and writes for local and international publications.

Bassam Eid, director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, said Amayreh wrote an article for the Umm al-Fahm-based newspaper *Sawt al-Haq* on the torture of Hamas suspects.

Before its publication, Amayreh, a board member of the monitoring group, telephoned Eid and raised the possibility of his eventual arrest.

"He knew there was a chance he would be arrested and he wanted to know that we would stand by him," Eid said. "Palestine needs more brave journalists like Khaled, willing to express their views in the face of suppression."

In the article published by *Sawt al-Haq*, the organ of Israel's Islamic

movement, Amayreh quotes one prisoner, Wa'el Asad as saying: "I was tortured so severely that I called out for God to have mercy on me."

The interrogator said that if God comes, we will arrest him as well."

Another prisoner, Iyad Imreish, is quoted as describing his session with PA interrogators. "They took off my clothes and made me lie on the floor. They poured cold water on me and started to beat me with a broomstick. When it broke, they brought another one."

PA court to hear petition against Arafat

The Palestinian High Court of Justice has agreed to hear a petition against Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat over the detention of a Hamas activist.

A petition by Khader Shkirat to free his client Mahmoud Muslih, a 56-year-old teacher from the Ramallah area, will be heard on November 23. Muslih was detained September 4, and is being held by the General Intelligence Service (GIS).

The decision to hear the case came despite opposition from the PA prosecutor's office, which tried to challenge Shkirat's authority to represent Muslih. Shkirat is general director of LAW, a Palestinian human rights group.

Steve Rodan

Rajoub was at a meeting with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and was not available for comment last night. But a senior PPS official confirmed the detention of Amayreh and said he is being held for questioning in Jericho.

"He was not arrested," the official said. "He put false information in the newspaper and hurt people as a result."

The official said Amayreh apparently interviewed Hamas detainees in Dahariya prison, south of Hebron. He said the prisoners quoted in the article, however, claim that Amayreh misrepresented them.

"The detainees said what Amayreh wrote was a lie," the official said. "We are now trying to clarify the situation."

Amayreh, a father of seven, has been harassed by PA security forces since they entered the West Bank. He has been critical of the PA in his column in the Hamas weekly *Al-Risalah* and in interviews with Western media.



Finnish minister begins visit
Foreign Minister David Levy meets in Jerusalem yesterday with his Finnish counterpart, Tarja Kaarina Halonen, here for a three-day visit. Halonen invited Levy to visit Finland but a date was not set.

Yishai tells Shas: Vote against the budget

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai yesterday recommended that fellow Shas MKs vote against the proposed 1998 budget when it comes to a first vote today, because of proposed cuts in child benefits.

Shas MKs stopped short of adopting the recommendation mainly because their faction meeting was interrupted for consultations on the Conversion Bill issue.

Shas did decide, however, to challenge the budget during Knesset Finance Committee debates.

The budget is also expected to face strong opposition from the Geshet faction which objects to proposed cuts in children allowances.

"It is no secret there are Knesset members who want to increase the defense budget and those who want to increase certain welfare provisions," Finance Minister Yaacov Neeman said of the criticism.

He added that the budget's main objective was to restore growth in the economy.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics the Israeli economy, which grew by an average rate of

5.5 percent from 1990-1996, is expected to show a growth rate of only 2.5% for 1997.

"Considering the economic conditions this is the best and fastest way to achieve growth in the economy," Neeman said, referring to the budget proposal.

Neeman also indicated that changes may be introduced in the final budget draft, which must be approved by January 1.

The NIS 207.4 billion package includes NIS 2.3b. in cuts, including a NIS 430m. cut in the NIS 24.5b. defense budget.

The budget proposal aims at

achieving three goals, which could bring more growth:

- Reducing the deficit from 2.8% of gross domestic product in 1997 to 2.4% in 1998.
- Cutting public expenses to 46.3% of the GDP.
- Leaving tax rates unchanged.

Neeman said he objects to tax hikes because the tax burden already amounts to almost 40% of the GDP. "Raising taxes would lead to lower production and to higher unemployment," Neeman said.

Liav Collins contributed to this report.

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Thursday, Oct. 28
7 p.m. - Opening event: Mephisto (Istvan Szabo)

Wednesday, Oct. 29
5 p.m. - Nasty Girl (Michael Verhoeven)
7 p.m. - Au Revoir Les Enfants (Louis Malle)
9:30 p.m. - Children of the Exodus (Juliane Geick)

Thursday, Oct. 30
5 p.m. - The Pawnbroker (Sidney Lumet)
7 p.m. - Journey into Life (Thomas Mutschlerich)
10 p.m. - Those Days in Terezin (Sybille Scheneman)

Friday, Oct. 31
12 noon - Shosh, Part I (Claude Lanzmann)

Saturday, Nov. 1
12 noon - Shosh, Part II (Claude Lanzmann)
9:30 p.m. - Daddy, Come to the Luna Park (Nitzza Gonen)

Sunday, Nov. 2
5 p.m. - Ladies Tailor (Leonid Gorovets)
7:30 p.m. - Korczak (Andrzej Wajda)

Monday, Nov. 3
5 p.m. - Triumph of the Will (Leni Riefenstahl)
7:30 p.m. - The Jewish Street (Herz Frank)

Tuesday, Nov. 4
5 p.m. - Angry Harvest (Agnieszka Holland)
7 p.m. - Weapons of the Spirit (Pierre Sauvage)

For additional information, (02) 672-4131

Mordechai: We will stick to Grapes of Wrath

By DAVID RUDGE

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai made it clear yesterday that Israel intends to adhere to the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

He also categorically denied reports in the Hebrew press that he had expressed criticism over the functioning of the IDF in south Lebanon.

Mordechai, who spoke to reporters following a meeting with visiting Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, praised the soldiers and officers in Northern Command.

The minister visited the northern border on Sunday as part of a general assessment taking place this week of the situation in south Lebanon.

"I didn't hear from anyone among all the officers with whom I spoke [on Sunday] that the Grapes of Wrath understandings should be revoked," Mordechai said.

Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on Lebanon, also spoke out yesterday in favor of the understandings reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath last year.

"The understandings have some flaws and in that respect are far from ideal, but on balance they serve the purpose that was agreed upon and the advantages outweigh the disadvantages," Lubrani told *The Jerusalem Post*.

According to recent reports, some senior IDF officers have been critical of the fact that Hizbullah is regularly violating the understandings by firing from inside and alongside villages at IDF and South Lebanese Army targets in the security zone. In such cases, the IDF refrains from responding directly to the origin of the fire for fear of harming innocent civilians.

"I think we have to be very vigorous in our contacts with the monitoring group so that it will do whatever is necessary in order to get the other side to adhere fully to the understandings," said Lubrani.

"We have to find ways of proving our case as clearly and unequivocally as possible and in this way put pressure on Syria and the Lebanese government to ensure that the understandings are upheld."

Regarding the recent public debate over the possibility of an unilateral withdrawal from the security zone, Lubrani said he was "the first one to aspire to leave Lebanon as soon as circumstances permit."

"I know, however, that by withdrawing unilaterally, without any kind of agreement or arrangement, we would be sowing the seeds for a situation to arise that would be much more ominous and much more costly than the present situation," he added.

WEATHER

Jerusalem
Tel Aviv
Haifa
Eilat

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Wind	Cloud
Amsterdam	46	28	08	48
Berlin	46	28	08	41
Buenos Aires	17	28	08	41
Calcutta	24	28	08	41
Chicago	30	28	08	41
Copenhagen	46	28	08	41
Hankow	14	28	08	41
Hong Kong	22	28	08	41
London	46	28	08	41
Los Angeles	14	28	08	41
Madrid	16	28	08	41
Moscow	10	28	08	41
New York	13	28	08	41
Paris	13	28	08	41
Rome	13	28	08	41
Stockholm	13	28	08	41
Sydney	19	28	08	41
Tokyo	11	28	08	41
Toronto	11	28	08	41
Vancouver	11	28	08	41
Zurich	11	28	08	41

Winning cards

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the king of clubs, the 8 of hearts, the 9 of diamonds, and the 10 of spades.

In the second daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the ace of clubs, the 9 of hearts, the jack of diamonds, and the king of spades.

Israel's electronic...
POST...
World stocks from Thursday mayhem
Yatom...
2 soldiers hurt in Lebanon
By MARY SEDE

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